# Windows NT

Return to Operating Systems

**Windows NT** is a family of operating systems produced by Microsoft, the first version of which was released on July 27, 1993. It is a processor-independent, multiprocessing and multi-user operating system.

The first version of Windows NT was Windows NT 3.1 and was produced for workstations and server computers. It was intended to complement consumer versions of Windows that were based on MS-DOS (including Windows 1.0 through Windows 3.1x). Gradually, the Windows NT family was expanded into Microsoft's general-purpose operating system product line for all personal computers, deprecating the Windows 9x family.

“NT” formerly expanded to “New Technology” but no longer carries any specific meaning. Starting with Windows 2000,[4] “NT” was removed from the product name and is only included in the product version string.[5]

NT was the first purely 32-bit version of Windows, whereas its consumer-oriented counterparts, Windows 3.1x and Windows 9x, were 16-bit/32-bit hybrids. It is a multi-architecture operating system. Initially, it supported several instruction set architectures, including IA-32, MIPS, and DEC Alpha; support for PowerPC, Itanium, x64, and ARM were added later. The latest versions support x86 (including IA-32 and x64) and ARM. Major features of the Windows NT family include Windows Shell, Windows API, Native API, Active Directory, Group Policy, Hardware Abstraction Layer, NTFS, BitLocker, Windows Store, Windows Update, and Hyper-V.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_NT

| Datasheet | |
|---|---|
| **Developer** | Microsoft |
| **Written in** | C, C++, and Assembly language |
| **OS family** | |
| **Working state** | Current |
| **Source model** | Closed-source, Source-available (through Shared Source Initiative) |
| **Initial release** | Windows NT 3.1, July 27, 1993 |
| **Latest release** | 20H2 10.0.19042.662 (30 November2020; |
| **Available in** | |
| **Platforms** | IA-32, x86-64 and ARM (and historically DEC Alpha, Itanium, MIPS, and PowerPC) |
| **Kernel type** | |
| **Default user interface** | GUI and Windows Shell |
| **License** | Depending on version, edition or customer choice: Trialware, commercial software, volume licensing, OEM-only, SaaS, S+S[a] |
| **Official Website** | http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ |

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