

# WINDOWS TASK MANAGER

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Have you ever been working in a program and the program stops responding? How do you shut down the program to restart it and get back to work? Clicking the X in the upper right corner does nothing or a box pops up asking you to wait till the program responds. Annoying right? Enter Windows Task Manager. Microsoft's Windows operating systems have a built in tool called Task Manager that allows you to see what programs and processes are running. Using Task Manager we can select the offending program and force quit said program. Here are 4 ways that you can access Task Manager to shut down that pesky hung program.

## **CTRL+ALT+DEL**

To most windows users, this three key combo is a common command to access Task Manager. Prior to Windows Vista, this command brought you directly to Task Manager. From Vista and beyond, the command takes you to the Windows Security Screen where you can select options to Lock your machine, Switch Users, Sign out, or access Task Manager.

## **CTRL+SHIFT+ESC**

Pressing Control, Shift and Escape will launch Task Manager directly without taking you to the Windows Security Screen. This lesser known way of accessing the program has a bonus of allowing you to quickly launching Task Manager in a virtual machine or remote desktop session since Ctrl+Alt+Del will signal your local machine.

## **WINDOWS KEY+X (WINDOWS 8 & 10)**

If you are working on a newer version of Windows, The start menu isn't what it used to be. Many people have been upset by the changes that Microsoft made to the Start Menu and Start Button. But while Microsoft removed the familiar Windows XP/7 interface, they added some additional functionality if you know where to look. By pressing the Windows key and X, or Right clicking the Start Button, you can bring up a power users menu that will allow you to access some commonly used troubleshooting and configuration tools. One of the tools available in the menu is Task Manager.

## **RIGHT CLICK THE TASKBAR**

The Taskbar at the bottom of your screen (assuming you haven't moved it) is where Microsoft allows you to pin programs, shows you network connectivity, battery life and the time. You can also use this bar to access Task Manager. By right clicking on the Taskbar with your mouse, you can bring up a context menu that has an option to open Task Manager.

Hopefully these four ways of accessing Task Manager will help you the next time you are in need of closing an unresponsive program.