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Windows Free Paint App – Overview

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The PAINT app or program comes free with all editions of Windows. It comes with many options for you to create your drawings or images and to modify others. I would encourage you to explore Paint and put it on your desktop. You will find it very useful if you take the time to try it! Here is a quick overview of what Paint can do.

If you do not have an icon on your Windows desktop for Paint (and I think you should), you can open the app anytime by clicking on the “Windows” icon on the extreme bottom-left on your screen. This will bring up an alphabetical list of all your apps in the left column. Scroll down (the scrollbar for this list may be challenging to see or find – a curse on the designers who hide stuff – it is VERY narrow at the top of the list, on the right edge of the list (not the window, just the list column). If your mouse finds it, it should widen to a normal scrollbar width that you can see and use. (They certainly did not ask me when they designed this!) Anyway, scroll down until you see “Windows Accessories” and click on the down arrowhead just to the right to open the contents of this folder. Next, you should see “Paint” and click on it to open it. (Note this is NOT “Paint 3D”). You can find out everything about Paint by asking Google and viewing some good videos about using it. But here is a quick picture of its features.

You can open almost any image (photo, drawing, clipart, etc.) in Paint (using the “File” tab/menu). The file types that Paint can work with are BMP, JPEG, GIF, PNG, and single-page TIFF formats. Now you are free to play with that image any way you want. You can draw on it, add text or shapes, crop the image, and much more. You can also SAVE the image (use the “Save as” option), and you can save your image as a different file type.

Have you a desire to be an artist? On the “Home” tab/menu, you can use Paint to draw and create your images. Select your color or pick your color from a palette, pick a drawing tool (pen, brush, marker, etc.), the size or width of your line, and draw away. There are many useful shapes as well, such as ovals, boxes, arrows, and more. You can even zoom in as close as you wish to see and work with each tiny pixel if you want. That is about as detailed as you can get. Remember, zooming in or out on an image does not change the image size; it just lets you view the image closer or farther away. If you make a mistake, the “undo” arrow at the top will erase the last thing you did.

You can “Resize” an image (to save memory size), rotate the image, erase things in the image, or select some part of the image for some action, such as copy or delete. Yes, you can add text in a “box” or right on the image.

Has Paint now sparked some interest? Please use Google to ask about how to use Paint and explore its many options. It is a very fun tool, easy to use, and will boost your creativity too! No real paint, no canvas, and no mess!



