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Launch your favorite Mojang Studio Games Play the latest versions and try what's next in snapshots Create customized shortcuts to your favorite worlds Update language, accessibility, features, Quick Play, and more Update Java Skins and access account information Read the latest Minecraft news and events Launch your favorite Mojang Studio Games Play the latest versions and try what's next in snapshots Create customized shortcuts to your favorite worlds Update language, accessibility, features, Quick Play, and more Update Java Skins and access account information Read the latest Minecraft news and events (Image credit: Mojang) If you're trying to download Minecraft for PC and get a piece of the action for the blocky adventure game, don't sweat it, it isn't nearly as hard as it used to be. But even so, there are some steps you really shouldn't miss. While you will need a Microsoft account to download Minecraft in the present day, choosing between the two versions, Java and Bedrock, is much easier than it used to be. There is no wrong choice as both are compatible with PC. So let's go through how to buy the game, set up your Microsoft account, and install the version that's right for you.How to download Minecraft for PC: Where to buy Minecraft (Image credit: Mojang)If you're a brand new player, then unfortunately, you'll need to purchase Minecraft before you can enjoy it in all its creative glory. There are two places where you can do this: You may like The Microsoft store The Minecraft website It's important to note that usually, Minecraft is \$29.99 / £24.99 / AUS\$39.95. However, if you have the Xbox Game Pass, it's \$6 or free in the UK and Australia. Once you've made your purchase, you'll be able to download and open the Minecraft Launcher. However, you'll need to create a Microsoft account before you log in.How to download Minecraft for PC: Register a Microsoft account(Image credit: Microsoft/Mojang)While you're in the Launcher, select 'sign in' and enter the Microsoft email address you want to use for this account. This will be an Outlook address. After this, choose the password; these must contain uppercase letters, lowercase letters, symbols, or numbers. Then select your birthdate and country/ region and check your emails for a verification code that you can paste into the required field. All there is to do after this is select 'next'.That's all you need to do to set up your Microsoft account for Minecraft. However, players under 13 years of age will need their parents' permission to finish setting up the account. Sign up for breaking news, reviews, opinion, top tech deals, and more.How to download Minecraft for PC: Which version should you install?(Image credit: Mojang)Now you have successfully downloaded the Minecraft Launcher and registered your Microsoft account, all that's left is to download the version of Minecraft that you want.Unlike the old days, Minecraft Java edition and Bedrock (now known as Windows) edition are a package deal meaning you can't mess up and accidentally purchase the wrong version. However, there is a difference in which version you install unless you want to install both.In the Minecraft Launcher, there will be both "Minecraft: Java Edition" and Minecraft for Windows in the left-hand sidebar. You can install either one by clicking on the version you want and hitting the big green 'install' button in the bottom centre.Mojang is currently working on adding cross-platforming to Java, so this may be the definite go-to in a few months. If you're unsure which edition you want, it's important to note the following. Bedrock or Windows is the best choice for cross-platform play, it supports using a game controller, and you also have access to the Minecraft Marketplace that lets you buy game textures, skins, or custom maps. However, Java is best for Minecraft mods, free texture packs, and skins. It's also worth noting that Mojang is currently working on adding cross-platforming to Java, so in a few months, Java may be the definite go-to. Regardless of which edition you chose, after the installation is complete, all you have to do is click play and have fun in Minecraft. Looking for some Minecraft building tips for beginners? Check out our list! Launch your favorite Mojang Studio Games Play the latest versions and try what's next in snapshots Create customized shortcuts to your favorite worlds Update language, accessibility, features, Quick Play, and more Update Java Skins and access account information Read the latest Minecraft news and events (Image credit: Mojang) If you're trying to figure out how to download Minecraft, don't sweat it. Getting the correct version of the game and setting up your account isn't nearly as confusing these days, a decade after its original release. Although there are two versions of Minecraft, they're now sold as a package deal and are more equivalent to one another than ever. Unlike in the past, you cannot screw things up by purchasing the wrong one. Both versions of Minecraft are compatible with the Windows operating system, despite one specifically being named Minecraft for Windows.Nowadays, a Microsoft account is a prerequisite for playing Minecraft, so be prepared to either use your existing account or create a new one that will handle all your Minecraft account info and any additional microtransaction purchases you make.Whether you're installing Minecraft for yourself for the first time or you're setting it up for a kid, we'll walk you through where to buy it and how to download the version that suits your play style. You may like Where to buy Minecraft on PCThere are two official places to buy Minecraft on PC. Minecraft costs \$29.99 (\$39.99CAD, £24.99) on PC and includes both versions of the game, which I'll explain below. The important part is that you can't screw up and buy the wrong version of Minecraft, so don't worry. Minecraft is also included in Xbox Game Pass, so if you're currently subscribed you do not need to buy a separate copy.After buying Minecraft, you will be able to download the Minecraft Launcher and log in with (or create) a Microsoft account. Other Minecraft games you've purchased with the same Microsoft account, including Minecraft Dungeons and Minecraft Legends, can all be launched through this same application. The launcher also handles downloading updates, so you don't need to worry about doing that part manually.How to download Minecraft on PC (Image credit: Mojang)If you're new to Minecraft, the differences between the original Minecraft Java Edition and Minecraft for Windows (also called Bedrock) aren't obvious. The good news is that both are included with your purchase now, meaning you don't need to sweat the purchase. As long as you buy Minecraft, you can change your mind about which version to play whenever you need to. You can even keep both installed, if you want.Keep up to date with the most important stories and the best deals, as picked by the PC Gamer team.If you're downloading Minecraft for your child, install Minecraft for Windows. It allows cross-platform multiplayer and is likely what they're looking for to play with friends.When you open the Minecraft Launcher, you should see both "Minecraft: Java Edition" and "Minecraft for Windows" in the left sidebar. To install either version, just click it in the sidebar and hit the big green "Install" button. In both cases, the launcher should default to installing the latest version of the game, no matter which Minecraft update has been released recently.We have a more in-depth guide to Minecraft Java vs Bedrock, but I'll give you the short version here. Prefacing these other distinctions: If you're downloading Minecraft for your child, you most likely want to install Minecraft for Windows. It's the version that allows cross-platform multiplayer and is likely what they're looking for if they intend to play with their friends.Minecraft Java: Also works with Windows, despite the other version's name.Allows you to install former versions of Minecraft and have multiple installations, which is required by most of our favorite Minecraft mods.Allows you to install visual changes for free, like Minecraft texture packs and Minecraft skins created by other players.Only allows multiplayer with other Java Edition players, but is the standard for many of our top Minecraft servers.Minecraft for Windows (Bedrock): Cross-platform multiplayer with players on consoles and mobile.Not compatible with Mac or Linux.Access to the Minecraft Marketplace with microtransactions for skins, textures, and custom maps. (For parents: The Marketplace costs money, but is curated by Microsoft unlike free-to-download mods for Java Edition).Supports using a game controller to play in addition to keyboard and mouse.With your chosen version of Minecraft downloaded, you can press "Play" and either begin your new world offline or join a server in multiplayer. If you want to know how to download Minecraft on PC, here's a simple guide to get you into this beautiful sandbox game in no time. Danielle Rose Published: Nov 14, 2024 Minecraft How do you download Minecraft on PC? You've found us here, so you're taking your first step in a journey that leads toward one of the most beautiful and innovative experiences in PC gaming. Thankfully, we're here to get you further along that path with step-by-step guidance on how to download the Minecraft, including its different versions, from every available source. From its beautifully ethereal soundtrack to fighting off Creepers and the therapeutic feeling of mining away underground, it's easy to see how Minecraft became one of the best PC games ever. Luckily, it's relatively simple to buy, download, and install Minecraft through Microsoft, and you can download it for free with Game Pass. With different versions available to buy and download, it can be hard to know where to start, so we cover all of that and more in our guide to downloading Minecraft. How to download Minecraft To download Minecraft on PC, you need the Minecraft Launcher, your central hub for all Minecraft editions and games. Whether you already own the game or not, you can download the Minecraft Launcher for free. Download the Minecraft Launcher from any one of these sources: Download the Minecraft Launcher at minecraft.net To download the Minecraft Launcher from the official Minecraft website: Go to Minecraft.net. Click on 'Get Minecraft' in the top right-hand corner. Select 'Computer', then choose the Deluxe or Standard editions. Follow the instructions to purchase and download Minecraft. If you already own Minecraft, make sure you are logged into Minecraft.net on your Microsoft account, and scroll down after step two above. Underneath the platform options, you will see a button that says: "Download Minecraft again". Click on this, and you'll be taken to the download screen for existing Minecraft owners. Download the Minecraft Launcher with Game Pass This method requires you to be a Game Pass PC or Game Pass Ultimate subscriber. If you are, here's how to download Minecraft on Xbox Game Pass: Visit the Minecraft page in the Microsoft Store. With membership, you can download 'Minecraft Java and Bedrock versions for PC', which includes the free launcher. Click on the download button and follow any subsequent steps that pop up (these may vary slightly depending on your device). You can only play Minecraft on Xbox Game Pass while you have an active Game Pass subscription. If you decide to cancel your subscription at any time, you will still have access to the free launcher but will be prompted to purchase the full game. Download Minecraft from Amazon Visit the Minecraft Java & Bedrock edition product page on Amazon. Purchase the game. Under 'Your Account' click 'Games and Software Library'. Follow the instructions to download the launcher to your device. You will need to log in to or create a Microsoft account. How to download Minecraft from the official Launcher Once you have the Minecraft Launcher installed, you can then download any Minecraft game to your PC, including Minecraft Dungeons and Minecraft Legends. Log in to the Minecraft Launcher using your Microsoft account. Select the game you wish to download from the list on the left-hand side. If you have Game Pass, you can access all released games. You will see a large 'Play' button if the game is already installed. If not, it will instead say 'Install'. Click the 'Install' button, and the game will install within the launcher. The button will read 'Play' as soon as the installation is complete. If you do not own the game or have Game Pass, you cannot download the file but will be taken to a screen to purchase the game. Follow the instructions to purchase the game, and return to the launcher to download. Minecraft versions There are several different versions of Minecraft, which might cause some confusion to those planning to play the game for the first time. Here's an overview of the different versions you are likely to encounter: Minecraft: Java & Bedrock Edition: Nowadays, if you buy Minecraft on PC, you'll get the Java and Bedrock Editions together. When you read "Minecraft Java and Bedrock edition" above, this refers to the Launcher with both games installed. The console versions are now also fully integrated into this version. You can read about their differences below. Bedrock Edition: This is essentially an amalgamation of Windows 10 Edition, Pocket Edition, and Legacy Console Editions. It has been designed to be an all-encompassing edition, playable on consoles and PC, with crossplay enabled between them. However, crossplay is not possible between Bedrock and Java editions. Java Edition: Is the original and main version of Minecraft, which has been available for over a decade. It differs from the Bedrock Edition in that it is only available to play on PC, and you'll find that most PC Minecraft players use this version thanks to the modding capabilities and slightly different mechanics. Mojang Studios is working towards parity between Bedrock and Java editions, though. There are also a couple of legacy versions of Minecraft outside of the Java and Bedrock versions that are now obsolete: Minecraft: Pocket Edition: If you originally planned to play on a mobile device, you may have heard about Minecraft: Pocket Edition. However, this is an outdated version, which has since been absorbed into Minecraft: Bedrock Edition. Minecraft: Windows 10 Edition: This also might sound like an option for anybody playing on PC. However, this one has also been merged with Minecraft: Bedrock Edition and is no longer available. If you want to download Minecraft on your cell phone, there are additional steps for you to follow: If you use Android, you can download Minecraft Bedrock Edition from the Play Store. If you use an iPhone, you can purchase Minecraft Bedrock Edition directly from the Apple App Store. Now you know how to download and install Minecraft. There's so much more to discover. With Minecraft mods, maps, and annual content changes, and it's hard to get bored of the survival game. You may also be interested in our guide on the best Minecraft seeds, which can be used on both Bedrock and Java editions, as well as our article on cool Minecraft builds for some inspiration for your own creations. Launch your favorite Mojang Studio Games Play the latest versions and try what's next in snapshots Create customized shortcuts to your favorite worlds Update language, accessibility, features, Quick Play, and more Update Java Skins and access account information Read the latest Minecraft news and events You might also like You've successfully subscribed to All Things How Welcome back! You've successfully signed in. Great! You've successfully signed up. Success! Your email is updated. Your link has expired Success! Check your email for magic link to sign-in.