Welcome to Media Center

With Media Center, you will feel at home right away. You can:

- Watch your favorite TV shows, or record and save them for later viewing.

- Share your digital pictures with others, or play them as a slide show—you can even include music.

- Play digital videos of family events, or play digital videos of your own creation.

- Listen to all of your favorite digital music.

- Play CDs and DVDs.

- Listen to FM radio (on radio-equipped Media Center PCs only).

To get Help on these tasks and more, click the **Contents**, **Search**, or **Index** tab.

- Use the **Contents** tab to display the table of contents. You can browse by feature area.

- Use the **Search** tab to find a specific word. Type the term you want to find, and then press ENTER to get a list of topics that contain that term.

- Use the **Index** tab to see a list of commonly used terms. Click the term to get the topics associated with a specific term.

Make Media Center accessible

Microsoft is committed to making its products and services easier for everyone to use. To learn more about the accessibility features included in Media Center, click the **Search** tab in Help, and then type *accessibility* in the **Type in the word(s) to search for** box.

Related topics

About My TV

About My Pictures

About My Videos

About My Music

About DVD

About Radio

Accessibility for people with disabilities

Get started using Media Center

You can use Media Center in two ways:

- Using the remote. In the same way you use your home entertainment system, you can use the remote control and Media Center to watch and record TV, play videos and music, and view pictures. Pressing the START ![icon] button on the remote always starts Media Center in full-screen mode.

- Using the keyboard and the mouse. You can run Media Center at the same time as other Microsoft Windows programs, viewing your pictures, watching videos, playing music, and even recording TV shows.

When you start Media Center, the Media Center Start menu appears. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to select menu options. When you make a selection, press the OK button on the remote, and then the menu choices for that selection appear. If you make another selection while you have media such as music or TV playing, then the currently playing media appears in the inset window in the lower-left corner of the screen. To display the media in full-screen mode, use the arrow buttons on the remote to select the media, and then press OK.

When an item such as a folder, picture, or video is selected, the item is highlighted with a green border. To make the selection, press OK.

Related topics

About My TV

About My Music

About My Videos

My Pictures

Change settings in Media Center

Get help in Media Center

What's new in this release of Media Center

- Better handling performance of DVDs and videos, including support for wide-screen displays.

- <Placeholder Web Site Name>, the site with the latest technical tips and tools to get the most from your Media Center PC.

- More of the features you depend on in Windows Media Player, include CD copying and music visualizations.

- Support for browsing removable media such as CompactFlash cards, memory sticks, and wireless drives.

- Extended handling of picture files, including picture rotation, picture captioning, picture printing, and animated slide shows.

- If the computer is equipped with a radio tuner card, then the Media Center PC plays both FM radio and Internet radio.

Related topics

Learn more about Online Spotlight

Learn more about Online Spotlight

Get the latest on what's new for the Media Center PC: downloadable files, tips for power users, newsgroups, information from the experts, and more—all this right from the Media Center Start menu.

Press the START button on the remote, and then select Online Spotlight.

Related topics

Troubleshoot your Internet connection

Information for upgrade users

As part of the upgrade process, some settings have been changed from per-user settings to system-wide settings. For example, the default TV recording settings are now system-wide, making it easier for users who upgraded to make the most of the recording storage space available.

System-wide settings are applied for all users of the computer. Per-user settings are applied only for the user who is logged on.

Related topics

Apply system-wide settings and per-user settings

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Get help in Media Center

There are five ways to get help and information about using Media Center:

- Online Help. Move the mouse to activate the toolbar, and then click the **Help** button.

- The *Media Center* booklet. The booklet covers basic setup tasks and introductory information about Media Center.

- Technical support. If you have technical questions, then you can contact the computer manufacturer.

- The Media Center Web site. Get the latest technical information and tips and tools on making the most of Media Center.

- The Media Center newsgroups. Post your questions, and get answers from Microsoft professionals and expert users.

Related topics

Get Help in Media Center

Navigate Media Center

Media Center Start menu

[Start Media Center](#)

[Use the Media Center Start menu](#)

[Customize the Media Center Start menu](#)

[Remove items from the Media Center Start menu](#)

Browse and make selections

[Search for an item by name](#)

[Work with removable media](#)

Tools for navigation

[Switch to Toolbar view](#)

[Show the Media Center menu bar](#)

[Show the Transport Controls toolbar](#)

Use Media Center with other programs

[Use Media Center and other programs at the same time](#)

End the session

[Close Media Center](#)

Start Media Center

To start Media Center by using the remote

1. Press the START button on the remote.

   📝 **Note**   You can also start Media Center from the Windows **Start** menu.

To start Media Center by using the mouse

1. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar.

2. Point to **All Programs**, **Accessories**, **Media Center**, and then click **Media Center**.

Related topics

Use the Media Center Start menu

Use the Media Center Start menu

Press the START button on the remote to go directly to the Media Center Start menu.

From the Media Center Start menu, you can choose what kind of media you want to play: TV, DVD, music, pictures, or videos. You can also gain access to the Media Center **Settings** menu and use the arrow buttons on the remote to select menu items.

You can also go to the Media Center Web site and start any add-ins from the Media Center Start menu.

The buttons that all Windows programs have—**Minimize**, **Resize**, and **Close**—are located in the upper-right corner of the screen and make it easy for you to use Media Center.

Customize the Media Center Start menu

You can add new programs to the Media Center Start menu.

Microsoft has created Power Toys, including a version of Solitaire that you can play by using the remote. You can learn more about Power Toys on the [Media Center Web site](#).

When you download a Power Tool, a new shortcut is automatically added to the Media Center Start menu.

> **Note**   Shortcuts for the Media Center Start menu are located in C:\Documents and Settings*User folder*\Start Menu\Programs\Accessories\Media Center\Media Center Programs.

Related topics

[Remove items from the Media Center Start menu](#)

Remove items from the Media Center Start menu

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, right-click the **Start** button on the taskbar.

3. Click **Explore**.

4. Go to the folder where customized Media Center Start menu shortcuts are located.

    ![Note icon] **Note**   Shortcuts for the Media Center Start menu are stored in C:\Documents and Settings*User folder*\Start Menu\Programs\Accessories\Media Center\Media Center Programs.

5. Right-click the shortcut you want to delete, and then click **Delete**.

    ![Note icon] **Note**   Deleting the shortcut does not delete the program itself. For more information about removing programs, see Help and Support Center.

Related topics

Customize the Media Center Start menu

Search for an item by name

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select one of the following: **My Pictures**, **My Videos**, or **My Music**.

2. Select the folder that you want to search.

3. Use the RIGHT ARROW button on the remote to select an item in the list. The list must have an item selected in order for the search to work.

4. Using the numeric keypad on the remote, enter the first letter of the item you want to find. Media Center jumps to the items that start with that letter.

   💡 **Tip**   If you have ever used the address book in a cellular phone, then you are familiar with how to use the numeric keypad to enter text. Press a button on the numeric keypad once to get the first character available on that button, twice for the next character, and so on.

5. When you have found the item you want, use the arrow buttons on the remote to select it.

Related topics

Input text by using the remote control

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Work with removable media

Media Center plays pictures, music, and videos that are stored on removable media such as smart cards, CompactFlash cards, and memory sticks.

Insert the removable media into the card reader. You might have a media slot built into the front of the computer (1) or a USB-connected reader device (2).

After the media is installed, you can go to it by selecting **Other Media** when you are using **My Pictures** or **My Videos**.

Switch to Toolbar view

When you move the mouse, the Media Center menu bar and transport controls appear. You can then use the mouse to click the buttons on the Media Center menu bar or the **Transport Controls** toolbar.

The Media Center menu bar and the **Transport Controls** toolbar disappear after a few seconds or when you press a button on the remote; move the mouse to make them appear again.
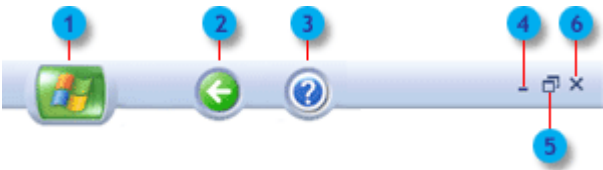
Related topics

Show the Media Center menu bar

Show the Transport Controls toolbar

Show the Media Center menu bar

Move the mouse to make the Media Center menu bar appear. From the Media Center menu bar, you can go to the previous screen, get online Help, restore or minimize the Media Center window, go to the Media Center Start menu, and close Media Center.

1. Start. Goes to the Media Center Start menu.

2. Back. Goes to the previous screen.

3. Help. Starts online Help.

4. Minimize. Minimizes Media Center and places it on the taskbar.

5. Restore. Switches Media Center to windowed mode and places a resize handle in the lower-right corner of the window.

6. Close. Closes Media Center.

Related topics

Show the Transport Controls toolbar

Show the Transport Controls toolbar

The **Transport Controls** toolbar appears when you move the mouse. You can click the on-screen transport controls with the mouse or use the transport controls on the remote.

When you press a button on the remote, the toolbar disappears and Media Center returns to full-screen mode.

Related topics

Transport controls in Media Center

Show the Media Center menu bar

Use Media Center and other programs at the same time

You can work in programs like Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel while using Media Center to watch TV or listen to music. Press the START button on the remote at any time to start Media Center in full-screen mode.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Restore**.

2. Using the mouse, click the resize handle in the lower-right corner of the Media Center window, and then resize Media Center.

3. Start the program you want to use.

   💡 **Tip**   To maximize the media that is playing while you are using other programs, switch to full-screen mode before you resize Media Center.

You can also minimize Media Center. When you minimize Media Center, the audio still plays from any media that you have playing. To stop the currently playing media, press the STOP■ button on the remote.
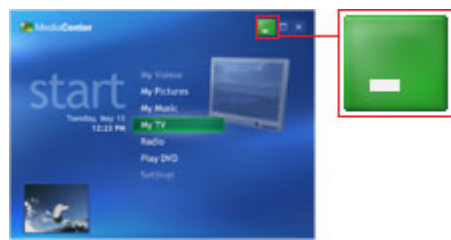
1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

Related topics

Watch a TV show in full-screen mode

Keep the Media Center window always on top

Close Media Center

1. Press the START button on the remote.

2. In the upper-right corner of the screen, select the **Close** button, and then press the OK button on the remote.

    Note   Closing Media Center does not log you out of Windows. Scheduled TV recordings still take place.

Related topics

Use Media Center and other programs at the same time

Media Center global settings

Make Media Center the default CD player or DVD player

Restore the default media settings for Windows

Volume settings in Media Center

Volume settings in Media Center

When you use the remote to turn up the volume in Media Center, you are turning up the master volume for the entire Windows system.

You can gain access to the master volume by using Control Panel. For more information about working with volume controls, see Help and Support Center.

> ⚠ **Warning**   If you turn up the volume and then turn off the computer, then the system volume might be very loud when you reboot the computer. You might want to turn down the volume when you are finished using Media Center to play media.

Related topics

Turn on or turn off Media Center sounds

Make Media Center the default CD player or DVD player

When you are using Media Center, CDs or DVDs play automatically, but you can also set Media Center to play CDs or DVDs automatically regardless of whether you are using Media Center at the time.

1. Close Media Center.

2. Insert a CD or DVD in the drive. A dialog box appears asking you what you want Windows to do.

3. Click **Play… using Media Center**.

4. Select the **Always do the selected action** check box, and then click **OK**.

Related topics

Restore the default media settings for Windows

Play an audio CD

Restore the default media settings for Windows

1. Press the START ▣ button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, and then click **My Computer**.

3. Right-click the CD drive or DVD drive (usually the drive D), click **Properties**, and then click the **AutoPlay** tab.

4. From the drop-down list, select **Music CD**, and then follow the instructions on the screen.

Related topics

Play an audio CD

Change Internet Explorer settings for use with Online Spotlight or other Media Center programs

If you have disabled cookies or set the security settings in Internet Explorer to "high," customized content that you have selected, such as stock tickers and local weather reports, might not appear.

In addition, Online Spotlight uses ActiveX controls. A message might appear if you have disabled ActiveX controls and plug-ins.

You can change your settings to activate cookies and to use ActiveX controls by changing the security and privacy settings for Internet Explorer.

For more information about changing Internet Explorer settings, see Internet Explorer Help.

Related topics

Learn more about Online Spotlight

Apply system-wide settings and per-user settings

Some of the settings for Media Center can be set and changed only by someone who has administrator privileges on your computer. Other settings are accessible by all users and can be changed by each user to suit individual preferences.

Administrators can:

- Run setup

- Configure the Internet connection

- Set up the remote control

- Change the privacy settings

- Set parental controls

- Customize the Program Guide

- Correct for NTSC

- View scheduled recording times and related information

- Set language defaults for DVD playback

- Set TV recording and storage defaults

All users can:

- Change appearance settings

- Change sound settings

- Turn on or turn off transition animations

- Turn on or turn off notifications

Related topics

Change settings in Media Center

Windows XP Media Center Edition hardware

The computer manufacturer includes hardware with Microsoft Windows XP Media Center Edition that makes the unique remote interaction possible. The remote commands are received by the remote sensor. The computer might have either a built-in remote sensor or a remote sensor that is connected to the computer with a USB cable. Take note of where the remote sensor is located. To ensure that the commands are received by the remote sensor, point the remote at the remote sensor.

For more information about what type of hardware you have and how to set it up, refer to your hardware documentation.

Related topics

Troubleshoot the remote

About the remote sensor

Use the remote control

About the remote sensor

The remote sensor takes input commands from the remote. Depending on the model of the computer, you might have a remote sensor that connects to the computer with a USB cable or a built-in remote sensor. No matter what sort of remote sensor you have, make sure to point the remote at the sensor.

For more information about what type of hardware you have and how to set it up, refer to your hardware documentation.

Related topics

About the remote sensor

Use the remote control

Use the remote control

The remote is how you interact with most of the features in Media Center. The arrow buttons can be used to select items from a menu list or items from a folder, like a TV show from the Guide or an album from My Music. In **Search**, you can use the numeric keypad on the remote to enter a message or address as you would with a messaging device. Just point the remote at the remote sensor, and then enter your commands.

If you have minimized or left Media Center, then the remote control commands might not be processed. To reactivate Media Center, move the mouse, and then click anywhere in the Media Center window. Now you can return to using the remote control.

Related topics

Troubleshoot the remote

Remote commands in Media Center

Get help in Media Center

Remote commands in Media Center

The remote control has four types of buttons:

- Navigation. Use the arrow buttons to move between items on the screen.

- Transport controls. Use the transport controls to control your media (for example, the PAUSE ❚❚ button or the STOP ■ button).

- Audio-visual (AV) and power. Use these buttons to change channels and adjust the volume.

- Numeric keypad. Use to enter alphanumeric characters into the search field much as you would enter a message or address in a messaging device.

Related topics

Remote commands in Media Center

Input text by using the remote control

Remote commands for Media Center

Use the navigation buttons on the remote to move between items on the screen in Media Center. Some buttons, such as GUIDE and LIVE TV, act like shortcuts.

To	-	Press
Start Media Center or go to the Media Center Start menu if Media Center is already running		START
Move to the selection above	▲	UP
Move to the selection below	▼	DOWN
Move to the selection to the left or move to the menu	-	LEFT
Move to the selection to the right or move from the menu to the folder items	-	RIGHT
Select the active item	-	OK
Go to the previous screen	-	BACK
Show information about the selected item	-	MORE INFO
Go to the Program Guide	-	GUIDE
Go to live TV or jump ahead 29 seconds	-	LIVE TV

Related topics

Transport controls in Media Center

AV controls and power controls in Media Center

Input text by using the remote control

Transport controls in Media Center

Transport controls in Media Center act just like those on common home electronics such as a CD player or VCR. The transport controls are used to control the playback or display of all of your media: music, pictures, videos, and TV.

To	-	Press
Play the selection.	▶	PLAY
Skip to the next selection.	▶❙	SKIP FORWARD
Skip to the previous selection.	❙◀	SKIP BACK
Stop the selection completely. Press PLAY to start the selection again from the beginning.	■	STOP
Pause the selection. Press PAUSE again to resume. ❙❙		PAUSE
Mute the sound without stopping playback.	⊗	MUTE
Turn up or turn down the volume.	-	VOL+ or VOL-

Related topics

Remote commands in Media Center

AV controls and power controls in Media Center

Input text by using the remote control

AV controls and power controls in Media Center

Use the audio-visual (AV) controls and power controls to change channels, adjust the volume, go to a DVD menu, or to put Media Center in standby mode.

To		Press
Adjust the volume		VOL+ or VOL-
Change the channel		CH/PG+ or CH/PG-
Mute the sound	⊗	MUTE
Show the menu on the DVD		DVD MENU
Put the computer in standby mode	⏻	STANDBY

Related topics

Remote commands in Media Center

Transport controls in Media Center

Input text by using the remote control

Input text by using the remote control

If you have ever used the address book in a cellular phone, then you are familiar with how to use the numeric keypad on the keypad to enter text. Each time you press a button on the numeric keypad on the remote, you scroll through the characters that are available for that button.

When you enter text for a search, results returned for the first character entered in the search field are those that contain that character. For example, if you enter the letter *E*, then the results are all items starting with the letter E and those that contain the letter E. If you enter the letter *N* next, then the results are all items containing the letter E and the letter N in sequence. The search narrows the results as you enter more characters.

1. Press a number to scroll through the choices that are available for that number. With each repeated press of a number, a different character appears. To backspace, press the CLEAR button on the remote. To enter a space between words, press the (0) button on the remote.

2. When you find the character you want, press the ENTER button on the remote. Continue until the search term is entered or until the search has narrowed the results enough so that you can select the item that you are looking for.

   💡 **Tip**   You can make your search faster by entering less information. Try entering only the last name of the artist you are looking for or only a keyword from a TV show. For example, if you are looking for "The Late Show" and enter *The*, the search might give you "The 5th Wheel" and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" in addition to "The Late Show." But if you enter only *Late* , then the search gives you fewer results, making the show easier to find.

Related topics

Remote commands in Media Center

Media Center remote control commands

By using the following Remote Control commands in Media Center, you can quickly accomplish many common tasks.

[My TV remote control commands](#)

[My Music remote control commands](#)

[Radio remote control commands](#)

[My Pictures remote control commands](#)

[My Videos remote control commands](#)

[DVD remote control commands](#)

My TV remote control commands

The remote control provides shortcuts for several commands in **My TV**. For quick reference, a list of remote commands is provided below.

To	-	Press
Go to the Guide listings	-	GUIDE
Display information about a show	-	MORE INFO
Go to live TV	-	LIVE TV
Jump to the previous channel	-	ENTER
Start recording TV	●	RECORD
Stop recording or stop live TV	■	STOP
Fast forward in three different speeds	▶▶	FAST FORWARD
Rewind in two different speeds	◀◀	REWIND
Pause live TV or recorded TV	❚❚	PAUSE
Resume paused TV	❚❚	PLAY or PAUSE
Advance frame by frame while paused	▶▶	FAST FORWARD
Go back frame by frame while paused	◀◀	REWIND
Jump forward 29 seconds	▶❙	SKIP FORWARD
Advance to end	▶❙	And hold SKIP FORWARD
Jump back 7 seconds	❙◀	SKIP BACK
Advance to beginning	❙◀	And hold SKIP BACK

My Music remote control commands

The remote control provides shortcuts for several commands in **My Music**. For quick reference, a list of remote commands is provided below.

To	-	Press
Play the selected song, album, or playlist.	▶	PLAY
Skip to the next track in an album or playlist.	▶❙	SKIP FORWARD
Skip to the previous track in an album or playlist.	❙◀	SKIP BACK
Stop the track completely. Press PLAY to start the track again from the beginning.	■	STOP
Pause the audio. Press PAUSE or PLAY to resume.	❙❙	PAUSE
Mute the sound (does not stop playback).	-	MUTE
Turn up or turn down the volume.	-	VOL+ or VOL-

Radio remote control commands

The remote control provides shortcuts for several commands in **Radio**. For quick reference, a list of remote commands is provided below.

To	-	Press
Play the selected song, album, or playlist.	▶	PLAY
Skip to the next track in an album or playlist.	▶▌	SKIP FORWARD
Skip to the previous track in an album or playlist.	▌◀	SKIP BACK
Stop the track completely. Press PLAY to start the track again from the beginning.	■	STOP
Pause the audio. Press PAUSE or PLAY to resume.	❚❚	PAUSE
Mute the sound (does not stop playback).	-	MUTE
Turn up or turn down the volume.	-	VOL+ or VOL-

My Pictures remote control commands

The remote control provides shortcuts for several commands in **My Pictures**. For quick reference, a list of remote commands is provided below.

To	-	Press
Play a slide show starting with a selected picture. ▶		PLAY
Go to the previous or next picture.		
Pan across a photo in full-screen mode. ◀ ▶		RIGHT ARROW or LEFT ARROW
Pause a slide show and any audio that is playing.		
Resume a paused slide show. ⏸		PAUSE
Stop a slide show and any audio that is playing. ⏹		STOP
Enter the selected menu item.		
Show the selected photo.		
Zoom in a photo in full-screen mode.	-	OK

Related topics

My Pictures keyboard shortcuts

Remote commands in Media Center

My Videos remote control commands

The remote control provides shortcuts for several commands in **My Videos**. For quick reference, a list of remote commands is provided below.

To	-	Press
Play a video	▶	PLAY
Stop a video	■	STOP
Fast forward a video	⏩	FAST FORWARD
Rewind a video	⏪	REWIND
Pause a video	❚❚	PAUSE
Advance frame by frame while paused	⏩	FAST FORWARD
Go back frame by frame while paused	⏪	REWIND
Advance to the end of a video	⏭	And hold SKIP FORWARD
Go back to the beginning of a video	⏮	And hold SKIP BACK

DVD remote control commands

The remote control provides shortcuts for several commands in **Play DVD**. For quick reference, a list of remote commands is provided below.

To	-	Press
To	**-**	**Press**
Go to the DVD menu	-	DVD MENU
Play a DVD in the drive	▶	PLAY
Stop DVD play	■	STOP
Fast forward	▶▶	FAST FORWARD
Rewind	◀◀	REWIND
Pause	❚❚	PAUSE
Advance frame by frame while paused	▶▶	FAST FORWARD
Go back frame by frame while paused	◀◀	REWIND
Jump to the next chapter	▶❙	SKIP FORWARD
Advance to the end	▶❙	And hold SKIP FORWARD
Jump to the beginning of the chapter	❙◀	SKIP BACK
Advance to beginning	❙◀	And hold SKIP BACK

Support for wide-screen displays

[Change the aspect ratio of the display area](#)

[Change the display resolution for wide-screen display](#)

[Adjust your display](#)

Change the aspect ratio of the display area

> 📝 **Note**   This feature is available only for wide-screen displays.

1. While your media is playing in full-screen mode, press the MORE INFO button on the remote.

2. At the bottom of the screen, select **Zoom**. Select **Zoom** again to change your display area setting.

To set your display format to	Icon shown	Select Zoom
Standard 4x3		One time
Full screen		Two times
Letterbox		Three times

> 📝 **Note**   The aspect ratio can be set differently for TV, videos, and DVDs. The aspect ratio you select for each media is applied as the default for that media.

Related topics

Adjust your display

Change the display resolution for wide-screen display

Change the display resolution for wide-screen display

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, right-click the desktop, and then click **Properties**.

3. Click the **Settings** tab. Move the **Screen resolution** slider to select the appropriate resolution for the monitor, and then click **OK** .

    Note   For information about how to determine the correct screen resolution for the wide-screen display, refer to your hardware documentation.

Related topics

Adjust your display

Change the aspect ratio of the display area

Set up Media Center

The first time you start Media Center, use the Media Center Setup wizard to:

- Make sure that your remote control is working.

- Set up an Internet connection for use with Media Center.

- Specify a TV signal (cable, satellite, or antenna).

- Set up your Program Guide.

You can complete the Media Center Setup wizard faster if you have the following information readily available:

- Your ZIP code or postal code

- The name of your TV signal provider, and the name of your subscription package (for cable TV or satellite TV only)

If you use a set-top box with your TV signal, then it is recommended that you have the set-top box remote control handy as well.

Related topics

Change your Setup options

Remote control

You can use Media Center from a distance by using the remote control.

Related topics

Troubleshoot the remote

Troubleshoot the remote

If your remote does not work, then do the following:

- Make sure that you have fresh batteries in the remote and that they are inserted correctly.

- Make sure that you are pointing the remote directly at the [remote sensor](#). If you cannot locate the remote sensor, then refer to your hardware documentation.

- Make sure that the remote sensor is not blocked or covered.

- Make sure that you using the remote within 10 feet of the remote sensor.

If you checked all of the above and your remote still does not work, then your remote might need to be replaced. Contact the retailer that you purchased your computer from to get a replacement.

Internet connection

Media Center requires an Internet connection to download Guide information. This connection must be available to everyone who uses the computer.

If your connection requires a password, then that password must be saved.

> ✎ **Note**   Media Center uses the Internet connection settings for the sole purpose of downloading Guide information.

If a dial-up connection is initiated by Media Center, then the connection is closed by Media Center.

Related topics

[Troubleshoot your Internet connection](#)

[Select a download method](#)

[Change your Setup options (including your Internet connection)](#)

[Manually connect to the Internet and update Program Guide information](#)

[I do not want Media Center to connect to the Internet automatically](#)

Select a download method

When it comes to downloading updated Guide information, there are three methods you can select during Media Center Setup:

Download when connected is recommended. After your computer is connected to the Internet, Media Center downloads updated Guide information.

Connect to the Internet and download appears only if you have an existing dial-up connection. Media Center connects automatically to the Internet to download updated Guide information. If this option is selected, then the connection must be available to everyone who uses the computer and the connection must have a saved password.

> **Note**   The **Connect to the Internet and download** option might not work with your Internet service provider's software. Also note that normal Internet connection fees apply when Media Center connects to the Internet to update Guide information.

Manual download requires that you initiate the download from within Media Center. If this option is selected, then note the following:

- Only a certain amount of Guide information is downloaded at a time, so you must connect manually to keep your Guide information current. Although the amount of Guide information available for downloading varies by geographical location, it is recommended that you download Guide information every three to four days.

- If your Guide information becomes outdated, then you cannot record by series or show and you cannot search the Guide. You can still record manually.

To manually download Guide information after Media Center is set up

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Get Guide data**.

I do not want Media Center to download Guide information automatically

Media Center is designed to download Guide information automatically from the Internet. Guide information is automatically downloaded if you chose **Connect to the Internet and download** when setting up your Internet connection for use with Media Center.

To specify a download method that is not fully automatic

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Set up Internet connection**, and then select **Next**.

4. Select either **Download when connected** or **Manual download**.

   Note   Media Center will have some changes in functionality if you do not connect regularly to update your Guide information:

   Only a certain amount of Guide information is downloaded at a time, so you must connect manually to keep your Guide information current. While the amount of Guide information available for downloading varies by geographical location, it is recommended that you download Guide information every three to four days.

   If your Guide information becomes outdated, then you cannot record by series or show. You can still record manually.

Related topics

Manually connect to the Internet and update Program Guide information

Record TV manually

Manually connect to the Internet and update Program Guide information

1. Before starting Media Center, connect to the Internet by using your usual method.

2. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

3. Select **TV**.

4. Select **Guide**.

5. Select **Get guide data**.

Related topics

Use the New Connection Wizard to set up an Internet connection for Media Center

Use the New Connection Wizard to set up a dial-up Internet connection for Media Center

You might need to use the New Connection Wizard to set up a dial-up Internet connection for use with Media Center.
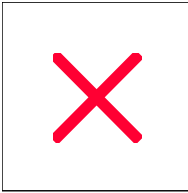
To start the New Connection Wizard

 Open the New Connection Wizard. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, point to **All Programs**, point to **Accessories**, point to **Communications**, and then click **Network Connections**.

2. Under **Network Tasks**, click **Create a new connection** to start the New Connection Wizard.

3. On the **Welcome to the New Connection Wizard** screen, click **Next**.

4. On the **Network Connection Type** screen, select **Connect to the Internet**, and then click **Next**.

5. On the **Getting Ready** screen, select **Set up my connection manually**, and then click **Next**.

6. On the **Internet Connection** screen, select **Connect using a dial-up modem**, and then click **Next**.

7. On the **Connection Name** screen, enter a name for the connection, and then click **Next**.

8. On the **Phone Number to Dial** screen, enter the phone number, and then click **Next**.

9. On the **Connection Availability** screen, select **Anyone's use**, and then click **Next**.

10. On the **Internet Account Information** screen, enter a user name, and then enter and confirm a password.

11. Make sure that the following options are checked, and then click **Next**:

    - Use this account name and password when anyone connects to the Internet from this computer

    - Make this the default Internet connection

    - (If available) Turn on Internet Connection Firewall for this connection

12. Click **Finish**.

13. Press the START button on the remote to start Media Center again.

Troubleshoot your Internet connection

My Internet connection does not work

My AOL connection does not disconnect after Guide information is downloaded

My MSN dial-up connection does not connect to the Internet

Media Center cannot connect to the Internet

Media Center cannot connect to the Internet and update Guide information

Set up your Internet Connection

There is no dial tone

The LAN Internet connection is not working

Check the user name and password for your default Internet connection

Check the region, country, or language settings for your computer

My Internet connection does not work

If you test your Internet connection and receive a "Test failed" notification in the Media Center Setup wizard, then do the following:

- Make sure that the cable used to connect to your Internet connection is firmly connected to both its source and your PC.

- Contact your Internet service provider (ISP) to make sure that there are no service outages or to see if your ISP has other troubleshooting steps that you could follow.

- If you chose **Connect and download** as your connection method, then recreate your Internet connection to include a saved password and to be available to all users of the computer.

- If you connect to the Internet through a proxy server or a firewall, then make sure that all ports are configured to allow connections by Media Center. For more information, contact your ISP system administrator.

If you are notified that the downloading of the Guide failed, then do the following:

- If you connect by using dial-up and want to use a new dial-up connection, then change your Internet connection settings. Press the START button on the remote, select **Settings**, select **General**, and then select **Set up Internet connection**.

- Download the Guide manually. Press START , select **Settings**, select **TV**, select **Guide**, and then select **Get Guide data**. If the downloading fails, then change your Guide lineup. Press START , select **Settings**, select **TV**, select **Guide**, and then select **Change Guide lineup**.

  Note   The **Get Guide data** feature works only if you have set up your TV signal. Press START , select **Settings**, select **TV**, and then select **Set up TV signal**.

Related topics

Use the New Connection Wizard to set up an Internet connection for Media Center

My AOL connection does not disconnect after Guide information is downloaded

If you use an AOL connection as your default Internet connection, then the connection might not be automatically disconnected after Guide information is downloaded.

You must always manually disconnect from the AOL connection after your Guide information is downloaded. You might also want to download your Guide information manually.

To manually download Guide information

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Get Guide data**.

To always connect manually to download Guide information

1. Press START ![icon], and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Set up Internet connection**, and then select **Next**.

4. On the **Download Method** screen, select **I will initiate a manual download** and then select **Next**.

My MSN dial-up connection does not connect to the Internet

If Media Center cannot connect automatically to the Internet, then you might need to configure an additional Internet connection. Go to the Media Center Web site for more information.

You can also try upgrading to the latest version of MSN connection software.

Media Center cannot connect to the Internet

With some Internet service providers (ISPs), Media Center is unable to automatically connect to the Internet to download Guide information. In this case, you can choose to have Media Center download Guide information when your computer is connected to the Internet.

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Set up Internet connection**, and then select **Next**.

4. On the **Download Method** screen, select **Download when connected**.

Media Center cannot connect to the Internet and update Guide information

If Media Center cannot connect to the Internet, then do the following:

- Make sure that the user name and password that are saved with your Internet connection are valid.

- Make sure that the necessary connections are plugged in, including network cables or phone cables.

If you are still having trouble connecting to the Internet to update Guide information, then you can manually download Guide information.

Related topics

Manually connect to the Internet and update Program Guide information

Set up your Internet connection

In some instances, Media Center might not know what connection to use in order to connect to the Internet and update Guide information.

Set up an Internet connection

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Set up Internet connection**.

There is no dial tone

If Media Center cannot detect a dial tone, then do the following:

- Make sure that your phone cable is connected to the modem in your computer and the wall telephone jack.

- Make sure that the phone line is not already in use.

- Make sure that the phone service is working: Plug in the telephone to the same phone jack used for your computer, and then listen for a dial tone.

The LAN Internet connection is not working

If Media Center cannot connect to the Internet through a local area network (LAN), then check the following:

Connectivity

Check connectivity to the Internet by opening a browser and going to a well-known Web site, such as http://www.microsoft.com. If you cannot go to a site that you know is accessible, then you are having connection problems.

Proxy server and firewall settings

Make sure that your proxy server or firewall settings have been properly configured. Depending on what type of network you use, these settings might vary from person to person.

If you are not sure how to check your proxy server or firewall settings, then you might need to contact either your network administrator or your Internet service provider (ISP).

Check the user name and password for your default Internet connection

If Media Center cannot connect to the Internet because of an authentication error, then make sure that the dial-up connection you are using includes a saved user name and password.

1. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, point to **Connect To**, and then click the dial-up connection you are using with Media Center.

2. In **User Name**, make sure that the User Name is correct.

3. In **Password**, type the password for the connection.

4. Select **Save this user name and password for the following users**, and then click **Dial**.

Check the region, country, or language settings for your computer

To ensure that you get the right Guide information and are able to tune your TV signal properly, make sure that **Regional and Language Options** are set properly for your geographical location.

1. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, and then click **Control Panel**.

2. Double-click **Regional and Language Options**.

3. Under **Standards and Formats**, select the language for your location.

4. Under **Location**, select the location you want. For example, if you are in the United States, then select **United States**.

5. Click the **Advanced** tab.

6. Under **Default user account settings**, select the **Apply all settings to the current user account and to the default user profile**.

TV signal

The TV signal that you use with Media Center could come from three possible sources:

- A subscription to a cable TV signal provider

- A subscription to a satellite TV signal provider

- An antenna

In the case of a cable or satellite signal, or a rooftop antenna, the TV signal comes into your home from outside, and then into a room by way of an outlet that is connected to a TV signal cable. The cable is then connected in one of two ways to your computer:

- If your cable or satellite provider requires the use of a set-top box, then the TV signal cable connects to the set-top box and another cable from the set-top box connects to the computer. Also, an IR control cable plugs into the remote sensor, with the other end affixed to the front of the set-top box.

- If your cable or satellite provider does not require the use of a set-top box, then the TV signal cable plugs directly into the computer.

In the case of a set-top antenna, refer to your antenna documentation for information about how to connect your antenna to your PC.

Choose a TV signal for use with Media Center

You have four options when asked to choose a TV signal for use with Media Center:

- **Cable or digital cable**   Select this option if your TV signal is provided by a cable TV signal provider.

- **Satellite**   Select this option if your TV signal is provided through a satellite dish.

- **Antenna**   Select this option if your TV signal is received through the use of an antenna. This could be either a rooftop antenna or an antenna that is connected to and sits on top of your TV.

- **No TV service at this time**   Select this option if you do not want to watch TV by using Media Center.

When connecting your TV signal cable to your computer, make sure that the cable you connect is the one that carries the TV signal you want to use with Media Center.

Your computer might support a variety of TV signal input methods, such as coaxial, S-Video, or composite. Choose the input method that works best for you, and make sure that the signal out from your set-top box or wall outlet is properly connected to the computer. For information about your particular configuration and to make sure that your devices are connected correctly, refer to your hardware documentation.

> **Note**   Media Center supports a single TV signal input. If you have more than one TV signal cable in your home, then you must choose one of them to use with Media Center. For example, you could have both antenna and cable TV signals in your home, but you can use only one at a time with Media Center.

Choose a working TV signal

You have several options when asked to choose a working TV signal for use with Media Center. Select the one that gives you the best picture.

Have Media Center identify your IR remote control codes

For Media Center to work with your set-top box, use the set-top box remote control to identify the IR remote control codes.

1. Make sure that you are using the set-top box remote and not the Media Center remote.

2. Follow the instructions on the screen to press and hold "0," "1," and "2," and then release those keys.

An onscreen message appears that notifies you when Media Center has identified your set-top box remote control.

Have Media Center learn the control codes for your set-top box remote

Although many sets of control codes can be identified automatically by Media Center, some cannot. In this case, you can have Media Center learn the codes by pressing and holding buttons on the set-top box remote.

1. Hold your set-top box remote so that the front end of it is almost touching the front of the remote sensor.
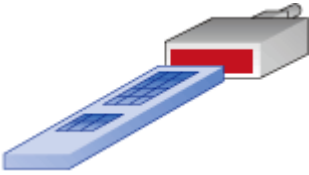
2. Follow the instructions on the screen to press and hold specific buttons on the set-top box remote until you are instructed to release them.

About using Media Center without a TV signal

If you choose to use Media Center without a TV signal, then you cannot watch or record TV. You can still listen to music, view pictures, watch DVDs, and view videos that you have created or downloaded from the Internet.

About using your set-top box with the Media Center remote control

If you use a set-top box with your cable or satellite TV signal, then you must make sure that the Media Center remote can control it. You need the following materials:

- The set-top box and the remote you use to control it*

- The Media Center remote control

- Remote sensor

- IR control cable

For information about your particular configuration and to make sure that your devices are connected correctly, refer to your hardware documentation.

* You need to use a set-top box only if your TV signal provider requires it.

Find the brand of your set-top box

Many brands of set-top boxes exist, and the manufacturer of each brand labels set-top boxes in a different way. The following are some tips for correctly identifying the brand of your set-top box:

- Look for brand-name labels on all six sides of your set-top box. You might find more than one brand-name label. Write them all down because you might need to try more than one of them during Setup.

- Refer to your set-top box documentation, if any was provided by your TV signal provider.

- Contact your TV signal provider for information.

Choose your channel entry method

Different set-top boxes have different ways of changing channels. For example, there are two different ways for you to change to channel 13 by using the remote:

- Press the 1 and 3 buttons on the numeric keypad, and then press the ENTER button or OK button. If doing this changes your set-top box channel correctly, then select **Yes, I have to press ENTER or OK**.

- Press the 0, 1, and 3 buttons on the numeric keypad. If this changes your set-top box channel correctly, then select **No, I just enter the channel number**.

Defining these channel entry methods helps Media Center function properly.

Select a TV signal provider

To ensure you specify the correct TV signal provider, it is important to verify *exactly how your provider lists your service* on your monthly TV signal subscription bill.

If you are still not sure which TV signal provider to choose, then either you can contact the TV signal provider directly or you can try different providers in the list until you find one that works.

Hardware not detected

Two essential pieces of hardware might not be connected properly: the remote sensor, and the IR control cable.

Make sure that the remote sensor is properly installed

Refer to your hardware documentation to make sure that the remote sensor is connected to your computer correctly. Your remote sensor either could be built into your computer or monitor or could be a peripheral device that connects to your computer.

For peripheral remote sensors:

- If you are sure that the remote sensor is connected correctly but Media Center cannot detect it, then try unplugging the remote sensor and then plugging it in again. You might hear a sound from your computer indicating that the remote sensor is connected.

- If the remote sensor is still not detected by Media Center, then contact your hardware manufacturer in case your remote sensor needs to be replaced.

For built-in remote sensors:

- Restart your computer.

- If the remote sensor is still not working, then contact your hardware manufacturer in case your remote sensor needs to be replaced.

Make sure that the IR control cable is properly installed

If you use a set-top box, then make sure that the IR control cable is connected to the remote sensor.


The other end of the IR control cable should be affixed to the front of your set-top box near its IR receiver.
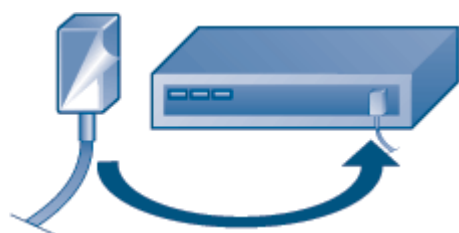
For information about your particular configuration and to make sure that your devices are connected correctly, refer to your hardware documentation.

If you cannot find the IR receiver on your set-top box, then shine a flashlight on the front of your set-top box as shown in the following picture.
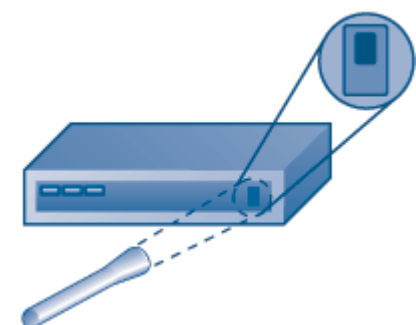
Troubleshoot the TV signal or the set-top box

[Troubleshoot detecting your TV signal](#)

[Troubleshoot choosing the set-top box brand](#)

[Troubleshoot choosing the signal type provider](#)

[Troubleshoot testing your set-top box](#)

[Troubleshoot your IR control cable](#)

[I cannot find a code set that works with my set-top box](#)

[My set-top box onscreen menu appears when I change channels](#)

[My radio frequency set-top box does not work with Media Center](#)

[Troubleshoot changing channels](#)

Set up Media Center to work with my satellite TV signal

Media Center needs to be configured in a particular way in order to work with signals from some satellite TV signal providers like DISH Network and Bell ExpressVu.

1. Press the START [image] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **Set up TV signal**, and then select **Next**.

3. Select **Satellite**, and then select **Next**.

4. Proceed through the wizard, and when you reach the **Choose Number of Digits** screen, select **Three digits**, and then select **Next**.

5. On the **How Do You Change Channels** screen, select **No, I just enter the channel number**.

6. Proceed through the wizard, and then make sure you follow the directions on the **Identify Set-top Box Remote** screen.

7. Complete the wizard.

Troubleshoot detecting your TV signal

Use the following steps to find out why a video preview does not appear on the **Choose Your TV Signal** screen:

If you use a set-top box

1. Make sure that the set-top box is turned on and tuned to a channel you receive.

2. Make sure that the TV signal cable is connected firmly at both ends.

   Cable, satellite, and rooftop antenna signals most likely enter your home by way of a wall outlet. If you are not sure of where this outlet is in your home, then contact your TV signal provider.

   One end of the cable must be firmly connected to this outlet. The other end must be firmly connected to your set-top box.

3. Verify that you have a live TV signal.

   If the cable is firmly connected and you still have no TV signal, try connecting the end of the cable to a TV.

   If TV images appear when the cable is connected to a TV, then the TV tuner card in your computer might not be working correctly. If the TV tuner card is not working, then contact the hardware manufacturer.

If you do not use a set-top box

1. Make sure that the TV signal cable is connected firmly at both ends.

2. Make sure that you have a live TV signal.

   If the cable is firmly connected and you still have no TV signal, then try connecting the end of the cable to a TV. If TV images appear when the cable is connected to a TV, then the TV tuner card in your computer might not be working correctly. If the tuner card is not working, then contact the hardware manufacturer.

For information about your particular configuration and to make sure that your devices are connected correctly, refer to your hardware documentation.

Troubleshoot choosing the set-top box brand

If you cannot locate your set-top box brand in the list during Setup, then your set-top box might be mislabeled or it might be labeled with more than one brand name. The following are some tips to help you identify the brand of your set-top box:

- Look for brand-name labels on all six sides of your set-top box.

- Refer to your set-top box documentation for the correct brand name.

- Contact your TV signal provider for information.

It is also possible that the brand of your set-top box is not listed. In that case, try testing your set-top box by selecting other listed brands.

Troubleshoot choosing the signal type provider

When choosing a TV signal provider, you must have two important pieces of information readily available:

- Your correct ZIP code or postal code

- The name of your TV signal package, if you subscribe to one

On the **Select TV Signal Provider** screen, the providers and packages are listed in the following manner:

    <City>, <Company> <City> <Package name>

For example:

    Aberdeen, Southridge Video Aberdeen Broadband (Digital)

Your TV signal provider might list more than one package, and it might be difficult to know which one to choose. Follow these guidelines:

- Choose a package that lists your city or town.

- If you see multiple choices for your location, the word "Digital" usually indicates digital cable service.

- If the word "Digital" is not included in the description, the selection is probably for basic cable service.

  Note   If you specify either the wrong ZIP code or postal code or an incorrect provider, your Guide information might not match the actual channels you receive.

Related topics

Check the region, country, or language settings for your computer

Edit channel numbers

Downloading failed for TV signal provider information

If you were unable to successfully download TV signal provider information, then do the following:

- Make sure you are connected to the Internet.

- Select **Back**, and make sure that you entered the correct ZIP code or postal code.

In rare instances, TV signal provider information might not be available for your area. In this case, contact your local TV signal provider for information.

Related topics

Check the region, country, or language settings for your computer

Edit channel numbers

Troubleshoot testing your set-top box

If your set-top box does not appear to be working, then do the following:

- Make sure that the power cord for the set-top box is plugged in and that the set-top box is turned on.

- Make sure that the remote sensor and IR control cable are correctly connected and that the end of the IR control cable that is affixed to the front of your set-top box blinks when you press a button on the remote.

- Make sure that the IR control cable is still firmly affixed to the front of your set-top box.

For information about your particular configuration and to make sure that your devices are connected correctly, refer to your hardware documentation.

Related topics

Troubleshoot the remote control

Troubleshoot your IR control cable

If you use a set-top box, you must use an IR control cable to relay the IR commands sent when buttons are pressed on the Media Center remote. If the IR control cable is not set up correctly, your set-top box cannot work correctly with Media Center.

Note   The remote works with Media Center without an IR control cable; however, the IR control cable is what enables the computer to work with your set-top box.

Make sure that your IR control cable is connected correctly. For information about your particular configuration and to make sure that your devices are connected correctly, refer to your hardware documentation.

I cannot find a code set that works with my set-top box

You make the following three choices in the Media Center Setup wizard that define what code set is used with your set-top box:

- The number of digits required to change channels

- Whether another button such as ENTER or OK is required to change channels

- The selected code set

If any one of these choices is incorrect, you might not be able to control your set-top box by using the Media Center remote. To correct this problem, try the following:

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Set up TV signal**.

4. On the **TV Signal Setup Screen**, select **Yes**.

5. As you proceed from screen to screen, try selecting options other than those you originally selected.

    Note   Only a few set-top boxes require that you press ENTER or OK to change channels.

My set-top box onscreen menu appears when I change channels

If the set-top box onscreen menu appears, then the computer is not configured correctly to work with your set-top box. To fix this problem:

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Set up TV signal**.

4. On the **TV Signal Setup Screen**, select **Yes**, and then proceed through the screens.

5. When you reach **How Do You Change Channels?**, select **No, I just enter the channel number** and then complete the setup process.

   ![Note icon] **Note**   Some set-top boxes allow you to disable onscreen menus. If the above steps do not fix the problem, try changing your set-top box settings.

My radio frequency set-top box does not work with Media Center

Media Center works only with infrared-controlled set-top boxes and does not work with radio frequency-controlled set-top boxes.

Some set-top boxes have the capability to be controlled by either infrared or radio frequency. For information about whether your set-top box can be switched from radio frequency control to infrared control, refer to your set-top box documentation or contact your TV signal provider.

Troubleshoot changing channels

[When I change to a three-digit channel, my channels change two times](#)

[Changing channels causes a prompt for a parental control password](#)

When I change to a three-digit channel, my channels change two times

If you enter a three-digit channel, your channels might change two times. For example, if you enter channel 123, your channel might change to channel 12, and then change again to channel 3.

The channel changes two times if you specified the wrong number of digits that it takes to change channels in Media Center Setup. To fix this:

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Set up TV signal**, and then proceed through the screens.

4. On the **Choose Number of Digits** screen, select either **Three digits** or **Four digits**.

You must specify the number of digits according to the highest channel you receive. For example, if the highest channel you receive is 500, select **Three digits**.

> **Note**   Satellite subscription packages usually include channels with three digits or four digits.

If you are not sure which option to choose, contact your TV signal provider for information about how many digits are needed to select channels with your brand of set-top box.

Related topics

Set up Media Center to work with my satellite TV signal

Changing channels causes a prompt for a parental control password

If you blocked a specific channel by using the remote that came with your set-top box, and if you are now using the remote that came with your computer to change channels, then you might get an onscreen prompt to enter a parental control password. If you are trying to change to a channel that has been blocked, then use the remote that came with your set-top box to enter the password.

If Media Center must change the channel to record a show with a rating exceeding the current parental control settings, then Media Center cannot change the channel until you enter the parental control password.

> ✎ **Note**   If you want to record a program with a rating exceeding the current parental control settings, and you might not be home to enter the password, then disable parental controls until after the program has been recorded.

You can also remove the blocked channels from your Guide so that this prompt does not appear while you are browsing channels. You can always tune directly to a protected channel when you want to watch it by typing the channel number on your remote control.

Media Center and my set-top box are not on the same channel

If your channel does not change, then try changing to a different channel and then changing to the channel you were trying to change to in the first place.

Related topics

Set parental controls

Program Guide

Media Center must have information about your TV signal to accurately update [Guide](#) information.

If you have a paid TV signal subscription but you are not sure who your TV signal provider is or what type of TV signal subscription you have, then check the invoice from your TV signal provider for the necessary information.

Related topics

[Troubleshoot "Download failed" messages for the Program Guide](#)

Troubleshoot "Download failed" messages for the Program Guide

If Media Center is not able to download Guide information, it might be for one of the following reasons:

- The correct TV signal provider or package was not selected.

- The correct ZIP code or postal code was not specified during Setup.

- Guide information is not available for the selected ZIP Code or postal code.

To change Guide settings

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Guide setup**, and then proceed through the wizard until you reach the page where you enter a ZIP code or postal code.

5. Enter your ZIP code or postal code, and then select **Next**.

6. Select your TV signal provider. If you are not sure which provider is yours, then you might have to contact your TV signal provider for more information.

Make sure your Program Guide information is updated

Although it is highly recommended that you allow Media Center to update <u>Guide</u> information automatically, you might choose another option.

To update Guide information manually

1. Make sure that you are connected to the Internet.

2. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

3. Select **TV**.

4. Select **Guide**.

5. Select **Get Guide data**.

Enter your ZIP code or postal code

To set up your [Guide](#) information and a list of TV signal providers, you must provide a ZIP code or postal code.

Only five-digit ZIP codes (for the United States) and six-character alphanumeric postal codes (for Canada) are supported. Canadian postal codes must be entered without hyphens or spaces.

If information about TV signal providers does not download, make sure that you have entered your ZIP code or postal code correctly. If you are sure it was entered correctly, then Program Guide information for your specific ZIP code or postal code might not be available. Try using a neighboring ZIP code or postal code, or contact your TV signal provider for more information.

About the Terms of Service

On the [Terms of Service and privacy policy](#) page in the Media Center Setup wizard, read the Terms of Service and privacy policy in full. You must then select either **I agree** or **I do not agree**.

> 📝 **Note**   If you select **I don't agree**, then you can still use Media Center but note the following:

- You cannot update, view, and use information from the [Guide](#).

- You cannot record by show or series, but you can record manually.

Related topics

[I want to decline the Terms of Service and not use the Guide](#)

About using the Guide

The Guide provides TV listings to help you watch and record TV shows. If you use the Guide, then anonymous information to improve the quality and accuracy of the service is sent to Microsoft. No identifying personal information is sent to Microsoft.

If you want to use the Guide, then select **Yes**.

If you do not want to use the Guide, then select **No**.

> **Note**   If you select **I do not agree**, then you can still use Media Center but note the following:

- You cannot update, view, and use information from the Guide.

- You cannot record by show or series, but you can record manually.

I want to decline the Terms of Service and not use the Guide

You can change your decision on the Terms of Service and privacy policy at any time.

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Change Guide lineup**.

5. Proceed through the screens until you reach the **Terms of Service** page.

6. Select **I don't agree**, and then click **Next**.

   ![icon] **Note** If you select **I don't agree**, you can still use Media Center but note the following:

- You cannot update, view, and use information for your Guide.

- You cannot record by show or series, but you can record manually.

About media information

CDs and DVDs include information about the media they contain, such as song titles or related artwork. This information is commonly referred to as [metadata](#).

To allow Media Center to retrieve media information for CDs and DVDs from the Internet, you must select **Yes**.

Choose a control code

Control codes are sets of frequencies that set-top boxes use to communicate with infrared (IR) devices such as remotes. Many different sets of control codes exist. It is important to keep trying different codes until you find the right one.

The control code list is sorted from most commonly used to least commonly used, so start by selecting the code at the top of the list. If that control code does not work, then go through the list from top to bottom until you find a control code that works.

Related topics

About using your set-top box with the Media Center remote control

Troubleshoot the remote

About the remote sensor

The remote sensor is the device that receives infrared (IR) signals from the remote.

Depending on the type of your computer, the remote sensor could be a small peripheral device that plugs into your computer or a device that is built into your computer or monitor. To find out what type of remote sensor you have, refer to your hardware documentation.

Remote sensors receive IR signals best under the following conditions:

- The remote must be used within 10 feet of the remote sensor.

- A direct, unobstructed line of sight must be between the remote and the remote sensor.

- No direct natural lighting or no direct artificial lighting must be shining on the remote sensor.

About setting the remote control signal speed

You must optimize the speed at which the remote's signals are interpreted. Incorrectly setting the speed might make channel changing seem either sluggish or too sensitive.

If you find that the remote control signal speed seems either too fast or too slow after setting up the speed, you can change the signal speed.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Set up TV signal**, and then proceed through the screens.

4. On the screens where speed is detected, follow the onscreen directions.

5. Complete the Setup process.

Related topics

About using your set-top box with the Media Center remote control

Troubleshoot the remote

About set-top box control codes

Your set-top box has a set of control codes that allow it to work with your remote. Because there is more than one possible match for some set-top boxes, you might have to try several control codes to ensure that you have the right match.

Related topics

About using your set-top box with the Media Center remote control

Troubleshoot the remote

Change your Setup options

The settings for your remote, Internet connection, TV signal, and [Guide](#) can be easily changed.

> 📝 **Note**   Each setting needs to be changed individually.

Remote Control and Internet Connection

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Do one of the following:

    *   Select **Set up remote control**.

    *   Select **Set up Internet connection**.

TV Signal and Program Guide

1. Press START , and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Do one of the following:

    *   Select **Guide**, and then select **Change Guide lineup**.

    *   Select **Set up TV signal**.

Change settings in Media Center

Global settings in Media Center

Change the appearance of Media Center

Turn on or turn off Media Center sounds

Use notifications

Adjust your display

Set parental controls

Change the setup for the Internet connection or the remote control

Set privacy options

Settings by area

Change settings for My TV

My Pictures

Set DVD defaults

About My Music in Media Center

About Internet radio

Change the appearance of Media Center

[Turn on or turn off transition animations between Media Center screens](#)

[Keep the Media Center window always on top](#)

[Adjust Media Center for your display](#)

[Change the video background color](#)

Turn on or turn off transition animations between Media Center screens

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Appearance**.

4. Select or clear the **Transition animations** check box, and then select **Save**.

Related topics

Turn on or turn off taskbar notifications

Change the appearance of Media Center

Keep the Media Center window always on top

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Appearance**.

4. Select or clear the **Window always on top** check box, and then select **Save**.

    Note   When you select **Window always on top** and run Media Center in windowed mode, the Media Center window always appears on top of any other open windows.

Related topics

Turn on or turn off taskbar notifications

Change the appearance of Media Center

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Adjust Media Center for your display

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Appearance**.

4. Under **Adjust Media Center for use on**, select the correct display.

Related topics

Adjust your display

Turn on or turn off taskbar notifications

Change the appearance of Media Center

Change the video background color

If you have a wide-screen display and the video is in a standard format, then borders appear around the video image. You can change the color of those borders.

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **Video Display**.

3. Select **Video background color**.

4. Select **+** or **−** on the screen, and then press the OK button on the remote to choose a color.

5. Select **Save**.

Turn on or turn off Media Center sounds

Media Center plays sounds when you select items or move between screens. The sounds can be turned on or turned off.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Media Center sounds**.

4. Select the option you want, and then select **Save**.

    Note   Turning off the Media Center sounds does not affect the audio for TV, music, DVD, or any other features that use audio.

Use notifications

Turn on or turn off taskbar notifications

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Notifications**.

4. Select or clear the **Taskbar notifications** check box.

   ![note icon] **Note**   If you turn off taskbar notifications, then you do not receive a notification when you are low on disk space, when there is no TV signal, or when there is no Guide data.

Related topics

Turn on or turn off transition animations between Media Center screens

Change the appearance of Media Center

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Set telephone call notifications

You can receive notification of incoming telephone calls and caller ID information if they are available. You must be a subscriber to a caller ID service to use this feature.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Notifications**, and then select the option for the telephone call notifications you want to see.

    Note   Not all modems support caller ID. To find out whether your modem supports caller ID, refer to your modem documentation.

Turn on or turn off onscreen tips

Onscreen tips help you use the Guide, but after you have learned how to use the Guide, you might want to turn off the tips.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Notifications**.

4. Select or clear the **TV tips** check box.

Related topics

Turn on or turn off transition animations between Media Center screens

Change the appearance of Media Center

Configure your video display

Adjust your display

Media Center gives you the controls to get the best possible picture quality from the display.

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Appearance**.

4. Select **Adjust display settings**.

5. Do one of the following:

   - To see an informational video about adjusting your display, select **Watch video**.

   - To continue adjusting your display, select **Next**.

   ![icon] **Note**   Gaining access to the display adjustment controls varies depending on the type of hardware you have. For more information about how to gain access to the display adjustment controls, refer to your hardware documentation.

   ![icon] **Tip**   To get the best picture quality, you might need to adjust the display settings a few times. While the video is running, adjust the settings. Then close the controls and play the video again.

Choose the type of display you have

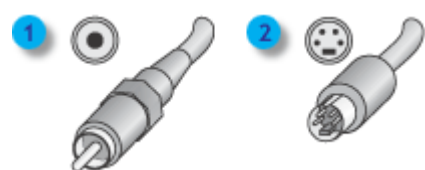Media Center supports four display types

- Traditional TV or computer monitor (CRT)

- Flat panel (LCD, plasma)

- Rear-projection, big-screen TV

- Front-projection TV

    If you are not sure what kind of display you have, then refer to your hardware documentation.
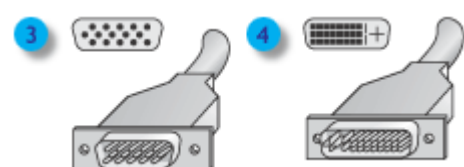
Select a video connection type

Some video connectors provide better display quality than others.

If you have a choice between a composite connector (1) and an S-Video connector (2), then use the S-Video connector.

If you have a choice between a VGA cable (3) and a DVI cable (4), then use the DVI connector.

Find the controls to adjust your display

Gaining access to the onscreen display adjustment controls varies depending on the type of display you have. Computer monitors often have a display adjustment menu button on the monitor itself. If you are using a TV, then you might gain access to these controls by pressing the equivalent of a "menu" button on your remote.

To find your display adjustment controls, refer to the documentation that came with your monitor.

Run the display adjustment controls

Each display adjustment control has a description of the control and a video that helps you optimize the settings for the monitor.

1. Select the control you want to use, and then press the OK button on the remote.

2. Follow the instructions on the screen. The instructions tell you exactly what to look for when playing the video.

3. Locate the appropriate controls for each control. If you are not sure how to find the controls, then refer to your hardware documentation.

4. Select **Watch video**.

5. To return to the display adjustment controls, select **Back**.

Related topics

Adjust your display

The onscreen display adjustment controls are superimposed over the video

Adjust the onscreen centering and sizing

Adjust the aspect ratio

Adjust the brightness

Adjust the contrast

Adjust the RGB color balance

Adjust the color and tint

Adjust the onscreen centering and sizing

If you are using a wide-screen TV, set the zoom mode so that the video stretches to fill the screen.

The display might not have centering and sizing controls. If this is the case, then skip this step.

To return to the display adjustment controls, select **Back**.

> 💡 **Tip**   If your video has borders on it, then you might have selected the incorrect display width. Go back to the width screen for the display, and then select the correct width for your display.

Related topics

Adjust your display

Run the display adjustment controls

Adjust the aspect ratio

If you have a wide-screen display, then under **Display Width** select **Widescreen (16x9)**. This choice selects the appropriate videos for your wide-screen display.

If you are using a wide-screen TV, then set the zoom mode so that the video stretches to fill the screen.

You must also set the screen resolution for use with a wide-screen display.

> **Tip**   If your video has either vertical black bands or appears in letterbox format, you might have selected the incorrect display width. Go back to the width screen for the display, and then select the correct width for your display.

To set the screen resolution

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, right-click on the desktop, and then click **Properties**.

3. On the **Settings** tab, move the **Screen resolution** slider to select the appropriate resolution for the monitor, and then click **OK**.

> **Note**   If you are not sure of the correct screen resolution for the wide-screen display, then refer to your hardware documentation.

Related topics

Adjust your display

Run the display adjustment controls

Adjust the brightness

The brightness setting affects the appearance of detail in the dark areas of a picture on your display.

Even minimal changes to this setting significantly affect the appearance of the picture on a flat-panel display.

Related topics

I cannot see the X when adjusting the brightness controls

Adjust your display

Run the display adjustment controls

Adjust the contrast

If you have a flat-panel display, then the contrast of the picture is significantly affected when you adjust the contrast setting only minimally.

⚠️ **Warning**   If you set the contrast too high, you lose detail in the whites in your picture.

Related topics

Adjust your display

Run the display adjustment controls

Adjust the RGB color balance

Pay careful attention to the color in the painting when you adjust the RGB color balance. The painting should be completely gray with no shades of color in it. For example, if the setting for red is too high, then the gray has a reddish tint.

💡 **Tip**   Write down the manufacturer's settings in case you want to return to the default RGB color balance.

If you are using a TV

Some TVs have color balance presets. Each of these presets might be called a "mode" on your TV; for example, "sports mode" or "movie mode." When you adjust the monitor for RGB color balance, try each mode and select the one that gives you the best picture quality.

If you have a color temperature option, then set the temperature to 6500.

If you are using a computer monitor

If you have slider bars for each color, then adjust them until the grays in the picture have no color tint.

If you have a color temperature option, then set the temperature to 6500.

Related topics

Adjust your display

Run the display adjustment controls

Adjust the color and tint

Set the tint to the middle setting, and then adjust the color saturation.

Color settings and tint settings are available only if you are using a TV as the display device.

Related topics

Adjust your display

Run the display adjustment controls

Adjust the sharpness

Pay careful attention to the cue sticks in the video when you adjust the sharpness. The cue sticks should not have shadows, ghosts, or rings around them.

Related topics

Adjust your display

Run the display adjustment controls

The onscreen display adjustment controls are superimposed over the video

T. The onscreen controls are provided by the manufacturer of the display device and might be superimposed over Media Center.

M. Make the adjustments, and then close the display adjustment controls. Run the video again when the controls are closed to see the effects your changes have made. If necessary, repeat the adjustment process.

Related topics

Adjust your display

Run the display adjustment controls

I cannot see the X when adjusting the brightness controls

If you cannot see the X on the wall when adjusting the brightness on the display, then the display drivers might be out of date.

For more information about device drivers, see Help and Support Center.

Related topics

Adjust your display

Run the display adjustment controls

Protect your display from burn-in

Some televisions, especially front-projection or rear-projection types, can be damaged by static images. Static images presented during the normal use of Media Center might "burn" into the screen, causing a permanent shadow of the static image to appear at all times, even when Media Center is not in use. Similar damage might occur from static images created when pausing Media Center.

To determine whether burn-in is an issue with your set, refer to your television manual.

Related topics

Adjust your display

Run the display adjustment controls

Set parental controls

[Set movie and DVD ratings](#)

[Reset parental controls](#)

[Change the 4 digit code](#)

[I cannot remember my 4-digit code for parental controls](#)

Change the 4-digit code

When you change the 4-digit code, all previously established parental control limits remain.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Parental control**.

4. When prompted, enter your 4-digit code by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

5. Select **Change 4-digit code**.

6. Enter a new 4-digit code by using the numeric keypad on the remote, and then confirm the new code by entering it a second time. A confirmation message appears when your code has been successfully changed.

Reset parental controls

When you remove the 4-digit code, all the parental control settings are reset.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Parental control**.

4. When prompted, enter your 4-digit code by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

5. Select **Reset parental controls**. The 4-digit code is removed, and all parental control settings are reset.

I cannot remember my 4-digit code for parental controls

If you have forgotten your current 4-digit code, you can reset it in **General Settings**. You must be logged onto the computer as an administrator to reset the 4-digit code for parental controls.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Hold down CTRL+ALT while you click **Parental control** with the mouse. The 4-digit code is reset.

4. Follow the onscreen directions to enter a new 4-digit code.

Change the setup for the Internet connection or the remote control

Set up your Internet connection

Change your setup options

Use Autoplay for HighMAT and Media Center enhanced content

Media Center can automatically play your HighMAT (High-performance Media Access Technology) media by using the HighMAT player. A HighMAT CD can contain audio, video, and pictures. For more information about HighMAT, go to the Microsoft Web site.

You can also set Media Center to play any content automatically that has been created especially for use in Media Center. Media Center enhanced content might include demo CDs or files that have been downloaded from the Online Spotlight Web site.

5. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

6. Select **General**.

7. Select **Autoplay**.

8. Select the options you want to enable.

Related topics

Learn more about Online Spotlight

More information about Media Center

Read the privacy policy for Media Center

Find out what version of Media Center you have

Read the privacy policy for Media Center

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Privacy policy and settings**.

4. Select **Media Center Privacy Statement**.

Related topics

My Internet connection does not work

Set privacy options

To change settings for how the computer retrieves and stores media information

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Privacy policy and settings**.

4. Select **Settings**.

5. Select or clear the check boxes for the privacy settings you want to use.

Related topics

Read the privacy policy for Media Center

Acquire licenses

Work offline

Acquire licenses

You might want to acquire licenses for media automatically to be able to play protected files without interruption. If the check box is not selected, then you might not be able to play protected files.

By default, you are prompted to back up your licenses approximately two weeks after you acquire a new one.

Related topics

Set privacy options

Read the privacy policy for Media Center

Work offline

The computer must be connected to the Internet if you want to use several Media Center features and options. If the computer is not connected to the Internet when you try to use one of these features or options, then you are prompted to connect to the Internet. The following list includes some of the Media Center features and options that require an Internet connection:

● Program Guide (Guide)

● Radio tuner

● Retrieving and displaying media information, including album art

● Finding and viewing album information

● Acquiring and restoring licenses

You can choose to work offline at any time. However, if you have connected to the Internet while using Media Center, then some media information might be stored on the computer and might still be available.

Related topics

Set privacy options

Read the privacy policy for Media Center

Find out what version of Media Center you have

If you have contacted technical support, you might need to find out what version of Media Center you are running.

6. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

7. Select **General**.

8. Select **About Media Center**.

Related topics

Media Center Technical Support

Accessibility for people with disabilities

Microsoft is committed to making its products and services easier for everyone to use. This section provides information about the accessibility options included in Windows XP Media Center Edition 2004.

How to use accessibility features in Media Center

Troubleshoot accessibility features in Media Center

Accessible products and services from Microsoft

How to use accessibility features in Media Center

[Media Center keyboard shortcuts](#)

[Remote commands in Media Center](#)

[Media Center features for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing](#)

[Media Center features for people who are blind or have impaired vision](#)

[Media Center features for people who have a mobility impairment](#)

[Accessibility features in Media Center Help](#)

Media Center keyboard shortcuts

When using Media Center, you can use the shortcut keys as an alternative to the mouse or remote control. By using the following keyboard shortcuts in Media Center, you can quickly accomplish many common tasks.

Navigation keyboard shortcuts

Audio control keyboard shortcuts

My TV keyboard shortcuts

My Music keyboard shortcuts

Radio keyboard shortcuts

My Pictures keyboard shortcuts

My Videos keyboard shortcuts

DVD keyboard shortcuts

Keyboard shortcuts for using the Help window

Navigation keyboard shortcuts

To	Press
Open Media Center or return to the Media Center Start menu	Windows Key+ALT+ENTER
Close Media Center	ALT+F4
Accept the selection	ENTER
Go back to the previous screen	BACKSPACE
Go to the first item in a list	HOME
Go to the last item in a list	END
Go to the next page	PAGE DOWN
Go to the previous page	PAGE UP
Move left, right, up, or down	ARROW KEYS
Go in and go out of windowed mode	ALT+ENTER

Audio control keyboard shortcuts

To	Press
Mute volume	F8
Turn down volume	F9
Turn up volume	F10

My TV keyboard shortcuts

To	Press
Start **My TV**	CTRL+SHIFT+T
Go to **Recorded TV**	CTRL+O
Go to the **Guide**	CTRL+G
Go to live TV	CTRL+T
Record a TV show	CTRL+R
Pause live TV or recorded TV	CTRL+P
Stop recording or stop playing a TV show	CTRL+SHIFT+S
Resume playing a TV show	CTRL+SHIFT+P
Rewind live TV or recorded TV	CTRL+SHIFT+B
Fast forward live TV or recorded TV	CTRL+SHIFT+F
Skip back	CTRL+B
Skip forward	CTRL+F
Display more information	CTRL+D
Go to the next channel	PAGE UP
Go to the previous channel	PAGE DOWN
Turn on or turn off **Closed Captioning**	CTRL+SHIFT+C

My Music keyboard shortcuts

To	Press
Start **My Music**	CTRL+M
Play an audio file or song	CTRL+SHIFT+P
Pause an audio file or song	CTRL+P
Stop an audio file or song	CTRL+SHIFT+S
Replay an audio file or song	CTRL+B
Skip to the next song	CTRL+F
Copy a CD	CTRL+R
Display more information	CTRL+D

Radio keyboard shortcuts

To	Press
Go to **Radio**	CTRL+A
Pause live radio	CTRL+P
Stop live radio	CTRL+SHIFT+S
Resume playing radio	CTRL+SHIFT+P
Skip back	CTRL+B
Skip forward	CTRL+F

My Pictures keyboard shortcuts

To	Press
Start **My Pictures**	CTRL+I
Play a slide show	CTRL+SHIFT+P
Stop a slide show	CTRL+SHIFT+S
Pause a slide show	CTRL+P
Skip back to the previous picture	LEFT ARROW
Skip forward to the next picture	RIGHT ARROW
Zoom a picture in full-screen mode	ENTER

My Videos keyboard shortcuts

To	Press
Start **My Videos**	CTRL+E
Play	CTRL+SHIFT+P
Pause	CTRL+P
Stop	CTRL+SHIFT+S
Rewind	CTRL+SHIFT+B
Fast forward	CTRL+SHIFT+F
Skip back	CTRL+B
Skip forward	CTRL+F
Display more information	CTRL+D

DVD keyboard shortcuts

To	Press
Go to the **DVD** menu	CTRL+SHIFT+M
Play	CTRL+SHIFT+P
Pause	CTRL+P
Stop	CTRL+SHIFT+S
Rewind	CTRL+SHIFT+B
Fast forward	CTRL+SHIFT+F
Skip back	CTRL+B
Skip forward	CTRL+F
Go to the previous chapter	PAGE DOWN
Go to the next chapter	PAGE UP
Change the DVD angle	ARROW KEYS
Change the DVD audio selection	CTRL+SHIFT+A
Change the DVD subtitles selection	CTRL+U

Keyboard shortcuts for using the Help window

To	Press
Display the Help window	F1
Display the **Contents** tab	ALT+C
Display the **Index** tab	ALT+N
Display the **Search** tab	ALT+S
Switch between the Help topic and the **Contents**, **Search**, or **Index** tab	F6
Select the next hyperlink or hidden text	TAB
Select the previous hyperlink or hidden text	SHIFT+TAB
Perform the action for Show All, Hide All, hyperlink, or hidden text	ENTER
Display the **Options** menu to access any **Help** toolbar command	ALT+O
Hide or show the pane containing the **Contents**, **Search**, and **Index** tabs	ALT+O, and then press T
Display the previously viewed topic	ALT+O, and then press B
Display the next topic in a previously displayed sequence of topics	ALT+O, and then press F
Return to the specified home page	ALT+O, and then press H
Stop the Help window from opening a Help topic (useful if you want to stop a Web page from downloading)	ALT+O, and then press S
Open the **Internet Options** dialog box for Microsoft Internet Explorer, where you can change accessibility settings	ALT+O, and then press I
Refresh the topic (useful if you have linked to a Web page)	ALT+O, and then press R
Print all topics in a book or print a selected topic only	ALT+O, and then press P
Close the Help window	ALT+F4

Media Center features for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing

People who are deaf or hard-of-hearing can configure Media Center to display Closed Captioning for My TV or DVD. However, Media Center does not support the SoundSentry, ShowSounds, and sound schemes features that are enabled elsewhere in Windows XP.

The accessibility tools that ship with Media Center are intended to provide a minimum level of functionality for users with special needs. Most users with disabilities will need utility programs with more advanced functionality for daily use. For information about accessibility products and accessibility aids for Windows XP operating systems, see the accessibility page on the Microsoft Web site.

Related topics

Closed Captioning

Closed Captioning

Closed Captioning displays the spoken audio in text format for TV and DVD. You can turn on Closed Captioning for Media Center in **TV Settings**. If closed captions are available on a channel other than the default captioning channel, then you can change the captioning channel in **Settings**.

To turn on or turn off Closed Captioning for TV and DVD

1. Press the START [icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Audio**.

4. Under **Caption Display**, select either **On**, **Off**, or **On when muted**.

5. After you have completed your changes, select **Save** to return to the **TV Settings** page.

To select a different captioning channel

1. Press START [icon], and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Audio**.

4. Under **Captioning**, select a different captioning channel, and then select **Save** to return to the **TV Settings** page.

Media Center features for people who are blind or have impaired vision

For people who are blind or have impaired vision, Media Center supports many of the accessibility features in Windows XP. However, Media Center has some limitations when you use High Contrast or some text-to-speech tools and screen magnifiers. In addition, if you adjust the cursor blink rate or cursor width in Windows Settings, then the changes will not be displayed in Media Center. Use the following links for information about each feature:

High Contrast

Text-to-speech tools

Screen magnifiers

Descriptive Video Service

The accessibility tools that ship with Media Center are intended to provide a minimum level of functionality for users with special needs. Most users with disabilities will need utility programs with more advanced functionality for daily use. For information about accessibility products and accessibility aids for Windows XP operating systems, see the accessibility page on the Microsoft Web site.

High Contrast

By using High Contrast, you can specify that Windows XP use specific colors and fonts for easy reading; however, Media Center can display only two appearance schemes. So when you turn on High Contrast in Windows XP and then open Media Center, Media Center automatically associates either High Contrast White or High Contrast Black with the scheme selection made in Windows XP.

> **Note**   The two High Contrast appearance schemes in Media Center have a uniform font size. The font size in Media Center does not increase when you select a Windows XP scheme labeled "large" or "extra large." However, the standard Media Center font size is considerably larger than the standard font size in other desktop applications and can still be useful for some visual impairments.

To turn on or turn off High Contrast

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, and then click **Control Panel**.

3. In Category View, click **Adjust the contrast for text and colors on your screen**.

4. On the **Display** tab, under **High Contrast**, select or clear the **Use High Contrast** check box.

> **Note**   To choose a specific High Contrast appearance scheme, click **Settings** under **High Contrast**.

For information about how to use High Contrast in Windows XP and Media Center, search for "High Contrast" under **Accessibility** in Help and Support Center.

Text-to-speech tools

Media Center supports Narrator and other screen readers that work with Active Accessibility 2.0. Narrator is a text-to-speech utility program in Windows XP for users who are blind or have impaired vision. Narrator reads what is displayed on your screen: the contents of the active window, menu options, or the text you have typed.

To open Narrator

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, point to **All Programs**, point to **Accessories**, point to **Accessibility**, and then click **Narrator**.

For information about how to use Narrator in Windows XP and Media Center, search for "Narrator" under **Accessibility** in Help and Support Center.

Screen magnifiers

Media Center supports Magnifier and other screen magnifiers that work with DirectX. Magnifier is a display utility program in Windows XP that makes the screen more readable for users who have impaired vision. Magnifier creates a separate window that displays a magnified portion of your screen.

To open Magnifier

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, point to **All Programs**, point to **Accessories**, point to **Accessibility**, and then click **Magnifier**.

For information about how to use Magnifier in Windows XP and Media Center, search for "Magnifier" under **Accessibility** in Help and Support Center.

Descriptive Video Service

If Descriptive Video Service (DVS) is available for TV in your region, then you can activate DVS by switching to the Secondary Audio Program (SAP) channel in **TV Settings**. SAP might contain an additional voice track that has voiceover commentary, DVS, or foreign-language interpretation.

To switch to the SAP channel

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Audio**.

4. Under **Audio**, change the selection to **SAP** by using the **+/-** buttons on the screen.

5. After you have completed your changes, select **Save** to return to the **TV Settings** menu.

   ![icon] **Note**   Contact your TV service provider to inquire about the availability of DVS in your region.

Media Center features for people who have a mobility impairment

Except for Sticky Keys, Media Center supports all of the accessibility features enabled elsewhere in Windows XP for people who have a mobility impairment.

The accessibility tools that ship with Media Center are intended to provide a minimum level of functionality for users with special needs. Most users with disabilities will need utility programs with more advanced functionality for daily use. For information about accessibility products and accessibility aids for Windows XP operating systems, see the [accessibility page](#) on the Microsoft Web site.

Accessibility features in Media Center Help

Media Center Help includes features that make it accessible to a wide range of users, including those who have limited dexterity, low vision, or other disabilities.

Related topics

[Keyboard shortcuts for using the Help window](#)

[Change the text or color of the background in Help](#)

[Change the font in Help](#)

Change the text or color of the background in Help

1. Open the Help window.

2. Click **Options**, and then click **Internet Options**.

3. On the **General** tab, click **Accessibility**, and then select **Ignore colors specified on Web pages**. You also can choose to use the settings specified in your own style sheet.

4. To customize the colors used in Help, click **Colors** on the **General** tab. Clear the **Use Windows colors** check box, and then select the font and background colors you want to use.

   📝 **Note**   If you change the background color of the Help topics in the Help window, then the change also affects the background color when you view a Web page in Microsoft Internet Explorer.

Related topics

Keyboard shortcuts for using the Help window

Change the font in Help

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Change the font in Help

1. Open the Help window.

2. Click **Options**, and then click **Internet Options**.

3. On the **General** tab, click **Accessibility**. To use the same settings as those used in your current session of Microsoft Internet Explorer, select **Ignore font styles specified on Web pages** and **Ignore font sizes specified on Web pages**. You also can choose to use the settings specified in your own style sheet.

4. To customize the font style used in Help, click **Fonts** on the **General** tab, and then click the font style you want.

   Note If you change the font of the Help topics in the Help window, then the change also affects the font when you view a Web page in Microsoft Internet Explorer.

Related topics

Keyboard shortcuts for using the Help window

Change the text or color of the background in Help

Troubleshoot accessibility features in Media Center

[My computer's High Contrast setting displays differently in Media Center](#)

[High Contrast does not work in Media Center](#)

[Closed Captioning does not work](#)

[My screen reader does not work in Media Center](#)

[My screen magnifier does not work in Media Center](#)

[SoundSentry does not work in Media Center](#)

[ShowSounds does not work in Media Center](#)

[Sound schemes do not work in Media Center](#)

[Sticky Keys does not work in Media Center](#)

[The cursor blink rate and cursor width display differently in Media Center](#)

My computer's High Contrast setting displays differently in Media Center

Media Center displays only two High Contrast appearance schemes compared to the 36 schemes available elsewhere in Windows XP. Media Center automatically associates either High Contrast White or High Contrast Black with the scheme selection in Windows XP.

High Contrast does not work in Media Center

If you have turned on High Contrast in Windows Settings and then optimized Media Center for use with a TV, then High Contrast does not work in Media Center.

To turn off the TV setting in Media Center

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Appearance**.

4. Under **Optimize display for**, select **TV**, and then select **Save**.

Closed Captioning does not work

Media Center displays Closed Captioning that has been supplied by the TV service provider on one of the captioning channels. If Closed Captioning does not work for a specific TV show, then Closed Captioning might not be available for that show or you might need to select a different captioning channel.

To select a different captioning channel

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Audio**.

4. Under **Captioning**, select a different captioning channel, and then select **Save**.

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My screen reader does not work in Media Center

Media Center supports Narrator and other screen readers that work with Active Accessibility 2.0. If your screen reader does not work with Active Accessibility 2.0, then it will not work in Media Center.

The accessibility tools that ship with Media Center are intended to provide a minimum level of functionality for users with special needs. Most users with disabilities will need utility programs with more advanced functionality for daily use. For information about accessibility products and accessibility aids for Windows XP operating systems, see the accessibility page on the Microsoft Web site.

My screen magnifier does not work in Media Center

Media Center supports Magnifier and other screen magnifiers that work with DirectX.

The accessibility tools that ship with Media Center are intended to provide a minimum level of functionality for users with special needs. Most users with disabilities will need utility programs with more advanced functionality for daily use. For information about accessibility products and accessibility aids for Windows XP operating systems, see the accessibility page on the Microsoft Web site.

SoundSentry does not work in Media Center

Media Center does not support the SoundSentry feature in Windows XP. If you have turned on SoundSentry (located in Control Panel under Accessibility Options), then SoundSentry will work elsewhere in Windows XP but not in Media Center.

To find out more about the features that Media Center does and does not support, go to Media Center features for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

ShowSounds does not work in Media Center

Media Center does not support the ShowSounds feature in Windows XP. If you have turned on ShowSounds in Control Panel under Accessibility Options, then ShowSounds will work elsewhere in Windows XP but not in Media Center.

To find out more about the features that Media Center does and does not support, go to Media Center features for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

Sound schemes do not work in Media Center

Media Center does not support sound schemes in Windows XP. If you have turned on a sound scheme in Control Panel under Accessibility Options, then the sound scheme will work elsewhere in Windows XP but in Media Center.

To find out more about the features that Media Center does and does not support, go to Media Center features for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

Sticky Keys does not work in Media Center

Media Center does not support the Sticky Keys feature in Windows XP. If you have turned on Sticky Keys in Control Panel under Accessibility Options, then Sticky Keys will work elsewhere in Windows XP but not in Media Center.

To find out more about the features that Media Center does and does not support, go to Media Center features for people who have a mobility impairment.

The cursor blink rate and cursor width display differently in Media Center

The cursor blink rate and cursor width in Media Center have been designed and optimized for all users. If you adjusted the cursor blink rate or cursor width in Control Panel, then the changes will be displayed elsewhere in Windows XP but not in Media Center.

To find out more about the features that Media Center does and does not support, go to Media Center features for people who are blind or have impaired vision

Accessible products and services from Microsoft

The following topics provide information about the features, products, and services that make this Microsoft product more accessible for people with disabilities:

- [Accessibility in Microsoft WindowsAdjusting Microsoft products for people with accessibility needsFree step-by-step tutorials](#)

- [Microsoft documentation in alternative formats](#)

- [Assistive technology for Windows](#)

- [Customer service for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing](#)

- [Getting more accessibility information](#)

The information in this section applies only to users who license Microsoft products in the United States. If you obtained this product outside the United States, your package contains a subsidiary information card listing Microsoft support services telephone numbers and addresses. You can contact your subsidiary to find out whether the type of products and services described in this section are available in your area. Accessibility is available in other select languages, including Japanese and French. For more information, see the [Microsoft Web site](#).

Accessibility in Microsoft Windows

Many accessibility features have been built into Microsoft Windows, starting with the introduction of Windows 95. These features are useful for individuals who have difficulty typing or using a mouse, are blind or have low vision, or who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. The features can be installed during setup. For more information about the various accessibility features of Microsoft Products, such as Microsoft Windows XP Professional, Windows XP Home Edition, Windows Millennium Edition, Windows 2000, Windows 98, and Windows 95, see the Microsoft Web site.

Related topics

- Accessible products and services from Microsoft

Adjusting Microsoft products for people with accessibility needs

Accessibility options and features are built into many Microsoft products, including the Windows operating system. Accessibility options and features are useful for individuals who have difficulty typing or using a mouse, are blind or have low vision, or who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

Related topics

- Accessible products and services from Microsoft

Free step-by-step tutorials

Microsoft offers a series of step-by-step tutorials to help you learn how to adjust the accessibility options and settings on your computer. The tutorials provide detailed procedures on how to adjust options, features, and settings to meet the needs of people with disabilities and accessibility needs. This information is presented in a side-by-side format so that you can see at a glance how to use the mouse, the keyboard, or a combination of both.

To find step-by-step tutorials for Microsoft products, see the Accessibility section of the Microsoft Web site.

Related topics

- Accessible products and services from Microsoft

Microsoft documentation in alternative formats

In addition to the standard formats, documentation for many Microsoft products is available in other formats to make it more accessible. If you have difficulty reading or handling printed materials, you can obtain the documentation for many Microsoft products in other, more accessible formats. You can download many of these books from the Microsoft Web site.

Microsoft produces an index of accessible documentation on the Accessibility section of the Microsoft Web site.

In addition, you can obtain additional Microsoft publications from Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, Inc. These documents are distributed to registered, eligible members of their distribution service on audiocassettes or on floppy disks. The collection contains more than 80,000 titles, including Microsoft product documentation and books from Microsoft Press. For information about eligibility and availability of Microsoft product documentation and books from Microsoft Press, contact:

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, Inc.
20 Roszel Road
Princeton, NJ 08540

Phone from within the United States: (800) 221-4792
Phone from outside the United States and Canada: (609) 452-0606
Fax: (609) 987-8116

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic Web site

Web addresses can change, so you might be unable to connect to the Web site or sites mentioned here.

Related topics

● Accessible products and services from Microsoft

Assistive technology for Windows

A wide variety of accessibility aids, or assistive technology products, are available to make computers easier to use for people with disabilities.

Microsoft provides a searchable catalog of accessibility aids that run on Microsoft Windows operating systems at the Accessibility section of the Microsoft Web site.

Among the different types of products available for the MS-DOS, Windows, and Windows NT operating systems are:

- Programs that enlarge the information displayed or alter the color of information on the screen for people with visual impairments.

- Programs that describe information on the screen in Braille or synthesized speech for people who are blind or have difficulty reading.

- Hardware and software utilities that modify the behavior of the mouse and keyboard.

- Programs that enable people to type by using a mouse or their voice.

- Word or phrase prediction software that enable users to type more quickly and with fewer keystrokes.

- Alternative input devices, such as single switch or puff-and-sip devices, for people who cannot use a mouse or a keyboard.

Upgrading

If you use assistive technology, before you upgrade either your software or hardware, be sure to contact your assistive technology vendor to check compatibility with products on your computer. Your assistive technology vendor can also help you learn how to adjust your settings to optimize compatibility with your version of Windows or other Microsoft products.

Customer service for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing

If you are deaf or hard-of-hearing, complete access to Microsoft product and customer services is available through a text telephone (TTY/TDD) service.

Customer service

You can contact Microsoft Sales Information Center on a text telephone by dialing (800) 892-5234 between 6:30 AM and 5:30 PM Pacific time, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Technical assistance

For technical assistance in the United States, you can contact Microsoft Product Support Services on a text telephone at (800) 892-5234 between 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM Pacific time, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. In Canada, dial (905) 568-9641 between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM Eastern time, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Microsoft support services are subject to the prices, terms, and conditions in place at the time the service is used.

Related topics

- Accessible products and services from Microsoft

Getting more accessibility information

The Accessibility section of the Microsoft Web site provides information about accessible technology to help improve the lives of people with disabilities by making computers a positive force in employment, education, and recreation. The information on this site benefits people with disabilities and their friends and family members, people in outreach organizations, educators, and advocates.

A free monthly newsletter is offered through e-mail to help you keep up to date with accessibility topics about Microsoft products at the Accessibility section of the Microsoft Web site.

Related topics

● Accessible products and services from Microsoft

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My TV

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Watch TV

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Watch a TV show in full-screen mode

Go to live TV from anywhere in Media Center by pressing the LIVE TV button on the remote. Media Center begins playing live TV on the last channel you watched or the channel that is currently being recorded.

To watch TV in full-screen mode

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Press the RIGHT ARROW button on the remote to highlight the Now Playing window.

3. Press the OK button on the remote to maximize the TV viewing window to full-screen mode.

4. Press the BACK button on the remote to leave full-screen mode and return to the previous screen.

   💡 **Tip**   Press LIVE TV to switch to live TV in full-screen mode from anywhere in Media Center.

View details for a TV show

While watching TV in full-screen mode, press the MORE INFO button on the remote to display the information bar. The information bar lists the current time and channel, the TV show title, category, and a short description of the show.

> **Note**   While the information bar is displayed, select **More Info** on the screen to view even more information on the current show. The **Program Info** page appears. Press the BACK button on the remote to return to TV in full-screen mode.

To hide the information bar, press MORE INFO a second time or wait for the information bar to time out after 10 seconds.

Change the channel

You can change the channel while watching TV in full-screen mode or when you have selected the [inset window](#) or the Now Playing window on the My TV home page.

To change the channel, do one of the following

- Press the CH/PG+ button or CH/PG- button on the remote to scroll through channels individually.

- To select a channel, enter from one to four digits by using the numeric keypad on the remote. Press the OK button on the remote to change the channel immediately, or wait a few seconds for the channel to change automatically.

- Full-screen mode only: Press OK to jump back to the last channel you watched.

Related topics

[Troubleshoot changing channels](#)

Pause and play TV

1. Press the PAUSE ❚❚ button on the remote to halt the live TV or recorded TV image.

2. To resume watching TV, do one of the following:

   - Press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote to resume watching TV where you left off. When you pause live TV for less than 30 minutes, the show begins playing automatically from where you left off. Media Center keeps live TV paused for a maximum of 30 minutes.

   - Press the LIVE TV button on the remote, and then press PLAY ▶ to advance forward and watch live TV instead of watching the TV buffer.

     Note   You can control the TV image with the transport control buttons on the remote while you are watching TV in full-screen mode or when you select the inset window or the Now Playing window on the My TV home page.

     Tip   While TV is paused, you can press the REPLAY ◀ button or SKIP ▶ button on the remote to skip the TV image back or forward frame-by-frame. Or press the FAST FORWARD ▶▶ button on the remote to advance forward in slow motion.

Related topics

Transport controls in Media Center

Watch TV in slow motion

Watch TV frame-by-frame

Stop TV

1. Press the STOP ■ button on the remote to stop live TV or recorded TV. To confirm that TV is stopped, a message appears.

2. To resume watching TV, do one of the following:

   - To resume watching TV where you left off, select **Resume** on the screen or press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote. If you resume playing TV within 30 minutes of pressing STOP, then Media Center starts playing TV where you left off. If you stop TV for more than 30 minutes, then Media Center automatically starts playing again.

   - Press the LIVE TV button on the remote to advance forward and watch live TV instead of starting where you left off.

   Note   You can control the TV image with the transport control buttons on the remote while you are watching TV in full-screen mode or when the inset window or the Now Playing window on the My TV home page is selected.

Related topics

Transport controls in Media Center

Fast forward TV

Media Center has three fast forward speeds to control the TV image. You can use fast forward only if live TV has been paused for a length of time or if you are watching recorded TV.

To advance at 3 times normal speed, press the FAST FORWARD ⏩ button on the remote one time. Press FAST FORWARD ⏩ a second or third time to increase the speed.

> 📝 **Note**   If you press FAST FORWARD ⏩ a fourth time, then you cycle back to the normal viewing speed.

> 💡 **Tip**   Press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote to resume normal viewing speed, or press the PAUSE ⏸ button to freeze the video image.

Related topics

Transport controls in Media Center

Rewind TV

Media Center has three rewind speeds to control the TV image.

To rewind at 3 times normal speed, press the REWIND ◀◀ button on the remote one time. Press REWIND ◀◀ a second time or third time to increase the speed.

> 📝 **Note**   If you press REWIND ◀◀ a fourth time, then you cycle back to the normal viewing speed.

> 💡 **Tip**   Press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote to resume normal viewing speed, or press the PAUSE ▮▮ button on the remote to freeze the video image.

Related topics

Transport controls in Media Center

Skip ahead in a TV show

If live TV has been paused for a length of time or you are watching recorded TV, then you can press the SKIP ▶| button on the remote to advance 29 seconds ahead into the TV buffer. You can repeatedly skip forward but only until you reach the end of the buffer.

To advance to the end of the recorded show or the TV buffer, press and hold SKIP ▶|.

> 📝 **Note**   You can control the TV image with the [transport control](#) buttons on the remote while you are watching TV in full-screen mode or when the [inset window](#) or the Now Playing window on the My TV home page is selected.

> 💡 **Tip**   If you press the PAUSE ❚❚ button on the remote and then press SKIP ▶|, then the video image advances forward frame-by-frame.

Related topics

[Transport controls in Media Center](#)

[Watch TV frame-by-frame](#)

Use instant replay

Press the REPLAY ◄ button on the remote to go back 7 seconds in live TV or recorded TV. You can repeatedly jump back with the instant replay option but only to the beginning of the TV buffer or recorded show.

To advance to the beginning of the recorded show or TV buffer, press and hold REPLAY ◄.

> 📝 **Note**   You can control the TV image with the [transport control](#) buttons on the remote while you are watching TV in full-screen mode or when the [inset window](#) or the Now Playing window on the My TV home page is selected.

> 💡 **Tip**   If you press the PAUSE ❚❚ button on the remote and then press REPLAY ◄, then the video image skips back frame-by-frame.

Related topics

[Transport controls in Media Center](#)

[Watch TV frame-by-frame](#)

Watch TV in slow motion

You can use one of two slow motion speeds to advance the video image while you are watching TV in full-screen mode or when the <u>inset window</u> or the Now Playing window on the My TV home page is selected. Slow motion in reverse is not supported.

To watch TV in slow motion

1. Press the PAUSE ❙❙ button on the remote. The video image freezes.

2. To advance the video image by 22% of the normal speed, press the FAST FORWARD ❱❱ button on the remote one time. The video image advances at the slowest of the slow motion speeds.

3. To advance the video image by 44% of the normal speed, press FAST FORWARD ❱❱ a second time. The video image advances at the fastest of the slow motion speeds.

   📝 **Note**   If you press FAST FORWARD ❱❱ a third time, then you cycle back to the paused state.

   💡 **Tip**   Press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote to resume normal viewing speed.

Related topics

<u>Transport controls in Media Center</u>

Watch TV frame-by-frame

You can skip forward or skip back frame-by-frame in the video image while you are watching TV in full-screen mode or when the [inset window](#) or the Now Playing window on the My TV home page is selected.

To watch TV frame-by-frame

1. Press the PAUSE **⏸** button on the remote. The video image freezes.

2. Do one of the following:

   - To skip the video image forward frame-by-frame, press the SKIP **⏭** button on the remote.

   - To skip the video image back frame-by-frame, press the REPLAY **⏮** button on the remote.

   Note   Press the PLAY **▶** button on the remote to resume normal viewing speed.

Related topics

[Transport controls in Media Center](#)

Watch pay-per-view

Pay-per-view shows are supplied by your TV service provider and must be included in your TV package to view them in Media Center. If you have any questions about the pay-per-view options available to you, then contact your TV service provider.

To watch pay-per-view

1. Press the GUIDE button on the remote.

2. Go to the pay-per-view show in the listings.

3. Press the OK button on the remote to select the show.

4. When prompted, use the set-top box remote to complete the pay-per-view order. The show plays after you have completed the order.

Related topics

Browse the Guide

Use the Guide

Guide basics

[Go to the Guide](#)

[Select a show listed in the Guide](#)

[Browse the Guide](#)

[Filter the Guide by a category](#)

[View the lineup for a single channel](#)

Record from the Guide

[Record a show from the Guide](#)

[Record a series from the Guide](#)

More about the Guide

[Download Guide listings manually](#)

[Change Guide settings](#)

[Get more information about the Guide](#)

[Turn on or turn off onscreen tips](#)

[Troubleshoot the Guide](#)

Go to the Guide

Press the GUIDE button on the remote to go to the [Program Guide](#) while using any program on your computer. Even if Media Center is not currently running, pressing the GUIDE button starts Media Center and displays the Guide.

In the Guide, you can view and scroll through a list of the current TV shows that are periodically downloaded from your [Microsoft TV Listings service provider](#). The Guide displays channel and network information, and the title and scheduled broadcast time of the show. When you select a show title, a short description of the show appears at the bottom of the screen.

To go to the Guide

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Guide** on the screen.

    Note   Press the BACK button on the remote to return to the previous screen, or press the LIVE TV button on the remote to watch TV in full-screen mode.

    Tip   When you first go to the Guide, TV tips appear at the bottom of the screen to help you learn how to use the Guide. After you have learned how to use the Guide, you can turn off the tips in **General Settings** under **Notifications**.

Related topics

[Turn on or turn off onscreen tips](#)

Select a show listed in the Guide

1. Press the GUIDE button on the remote.

2. Go to the TV show. When an item is highlighted, additional information about the TV show appears at the bottom of the screen.

3. Press the OK button on the remote to select the TV show.

4. One of the following occurs:

   - If the show is currently playing, then it appears in full-screen mode.

   - If the show that you selected in the Guide is not yet playing, then the **Program Info** page appears. On the **Program Info** page, you can view more information about the show or schedule the show (or the series) to record.

5. Press the BACK button on the remote to return to the previous page.

Related topics

Browse the Guide

Filter the Guide by a category

Browse the Guide

To browse the Guide by using the remote, do any of the following:

To		Press
To		**Press**
Go to the inset window	-	LEFT ARROW
Jump directly to a specific channel in the Guide	-	numeric keypad
Scroll to the next or previous time slot	-	RIGHT ARROW or LEFT ARROW
Scroll through the TV channels one at a time	-	UP ARROW or DOWN ARROW
Scroll through the TV channels page by page	-	CH/PG+ or CH/PG-
Jump forward 12 hours in the Guide	▶▌	SKIP
Jump back 12 hours in the Guide	▌◀	REPLAY
Jump forward 3 hours in the Guide	▶▶	FAST FORWARD
Jump back 3 hours in the Guide	◀◀	REWIND
Return to the current time slot in the listings	-	GUIDE, and then select **All on now**

💡 **Tip**   When you first go to the Guide, TV tips appear at the bottom of the screen to help you learn how to use the Guide. After you have learned how to use the Guide, you can turn off the tips in **General Settings** under **Notifications**.

Related topics

Select a show listed in the Guide

Turn on or turn off onscreen tips

Filter the Guide by a category

Guide filtering is available in the United States and Canada only.

1. Press the GUIDE button on the remote.

2. While in the Guide, press GUIDE a second time. A list of filter categories appears.

3. Select a category, and then press the OK button on the remote. The channels that contain shows within that category appear.

4. Press GUIDE to return from a filtered Guide view to the current time slot listing all the channels.

Related topics

Select a show listed in the Guide

Browse the Guide

View the lineup for a single channel

1. Press the GUIDE button on the remote.

2. Select the channel identifier to view the listings for that channel.

3. To browse through the channel listings, do one of the following.

To		Press
Jump directly to a specific single channel listing	-	numeric keypad
Scroll to the next or previous single channel listing	-	RIGHT ARROW or LEFT ARROW
Scroll up or scroll down one item at a time	-	UP ARROW or DOWN ARROW
Scroll up or scroll down one page at a time	-	CH/PG+ or CH/PG-
Return to the Guide	-	BACK

Download Guide listings manually

You can download new Guide information manually to update your current Guide listings. The Guide can contain up to 14 days of program Guide information. If you download only Guide listings manually, then you must update your Guide regularly to make sure to get any last-minute schedule changes.

> 📝 **Note**   Before you can download Guide listings, you must have your TV signal, Guide, and Internet connection set up.

To download updated Guide listings

1. Press the START 🏠 button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Get Guide data**.

5. When prompted, press the OK button on the remote to begin downloading the Guide listings. A dialog box appears when the Guide update is complete. You can continue to use the Guide while new Guide information is being downloaded.

    > 💡 **Tip**   You can find out the date and time of the last successful Guide downloading in **About Guide data** under **Guide Settings**.

Related topics

[Read about the current Guide information](#)

[Reset the Guide lineup](#)

[Change the settings for the TV signal](#)

[Set up your Internet connection](#)

Get more information about the Guide

Read the Terms of Service for the Guide in Media Center

Read the Guide privacy statement

Read about the current Guide information

Read the Terms of Service for the Guide in Media Center

In order to be able to download and use the Guide information from the [Microsoft TV listings service provider](), you must agree to the Terms of Service. To agree or decline the Terms of Service, go to **Reset Guide lineup** in **Guide Settings**.

To read the Terms of Service for the Guide

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Terms of Service**.

5. To return to **Guide Settings**, press the BACK button on the remote.

Related topics

[Change the settings for the TV signal]()

Read the Guide privacy statement

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Privacy**.

4. Select **Guide Privacy Statement**.

5. To return to **Guide Settings**, press the BACK button on the remote.

Related topics

Change the settings for the TV signal

Read about the current Guide information

The **About Guide data** page displays information about the current listings in the Guide. For example, it displays the start date, end date, and end time for the downloaded Guide listings, as well as information about the [Microsoft TV Listings service provider](#).

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **About Guide data**. Information about the current Guide listings appears.

5. To return to **Guide Settings**, press the BACK button on the remote.

Related topics

[Download Guide listings manually](#)

Record TV

[Record the show that you are watching](#)

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Record the show that you are watching

While watching TV in full-screen mode or when you have selected the [inset window](#) or Now Playing window in the My TV home page, press the RECORD ● button on the remote to begin recording the current show. To confirm that your selection is being recorded, the record icon appears. Media Center records the remainder of the current show.

Press the STOP ■ button on the remote to stop recording before the end of the show. Select **Yes** if you want to stop recording, or select **No** if you want to continue recording.

> ✎ **Note**   If Guide information is not available when you try to record a show, then the **Manual Record** screen appears so that you can schedule the recording by channel and time.

Record from the Guide

[Record a show from the Guide](#)

[Record a series from the Guide](#)

[Record by channel and time](#)

Record a show from the Guide

1. Press the GUIDE button on the remote.

2. Go to the TV show that you want to record.

3. Highlight the title of the show, and then press the RECORD ● button on the remote one time to record the show. To confirm that your selection is scheduled to be recorded, the record icon appears.

    Note   To record TV shows successfully to the hard disk, your computer must remain turned on, in standby mode, or in hibernate mode.

Related topics

Use standby mode

Browse the Guide

Record a series from the Guide

Change recording settings for a scheduled recording

Record a series from the Guide

1. Press the GUIDE button on the remote.

2. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll through the TV listings.

3. Highlight the title of the show, and then press the RECORD ⬤ button on the remote two times to record the series. To confirm that your selection is scheduled to be recorded, the series record icon appears.

   📝 **Note**   To record TV shows successfully to the hard disk, your computer must remain turned on, in standby mode, or in hibernate mode.

Related topics

Use standby mode

Browse the Guide

Record a show from the Guide

Change recording settings for a scheduled recording

Record from Search

[Record a show from Search](#)

[Record a series from Search](#)

Record a show from Search

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Search**.

3. Select **Title**, **Keyword**, or **Categories** to search for that type of information.

4. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll through the search results and to select the show that you want to record.

    Note   Multiple episodes might be grouped under one heading, so it might be necessary to select a title, and then select the title again to locate a specific date or time.

5. Select **Record** on the screen to schedule the individual show to record.

    Note   To record TV shows successfully to the hard disk, your computer must remain turned on, in standby mode, or in hibernate mode.

    Tip   You can change the settings for this recording by selecting **Advanced record** on the **Program Info** page.

Related topics

Use standby mode

Search TV

Record a series from Search

Record a series from Search

1. Press the START [icon] button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Search**.

3. Select **Title**, **Keyword**, or **Categories** to search for that type of information.

4. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll through the search results and to select the show that you want to record.

   [icon] **Note**   Multiple episodes might be grouped under one heading, so it might be necessary to select a title, and then select the title again for a specific date or specific time.

5. Select **Record series** on the screen to schedule the TV series to record.

   [icon] **Note**   To record TV shows successfully to the hard disk, your computer must remain turned on, in standby mode, or in hibernate mode.

   [icon] **Tip**   You can schedule the series and change the settings for the recording by selecting **Advanced record** on the **Program Info** page.

Related topics

Use standby mode

Search TV

Record a show from Search

Record by keyword

When you schedule a custom recording by keyword, Media Center continually searches the Guide and records shows based on the preferences you set, such as actor, director, movie title, or program title. Media Center continues to find and record shows until you cancel the scheduled Keyword record.

[Record upcoming shows with a specific actor or by a specific director](#)

[Record an upcoming show or movie](#)

[Record shows containing a generic keyword](#)

Record upcoming shows with a specific actor or by a specific director

You can schedule a Keyword record that records shows with a specific actor or by a specific director. Even if Media Center cannot locate any matching shows in the current Guide listings, it continues to find and record shows until you cancel the scheduled Keyword record.

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. Select **Add recording**.

4. Under **Create a custom recording with**, select **Keyword**.

5. Select either **Actor name** or **Director name**.

6. Enter your text by using the numeric keypad on the remote. A list of matches to the name you entered displays alphabetically. Select an item from the results list, and then press the OK button on the remote.

   💡 **Tip**   In the results list, names are displayed with the first name and then last name (that is. Jane Doe). If you type in Doe, then you might need to scroll down in the list to locate the matching name.

   📝 **Note**   When you enter text, Media Center is searching the Guide information for the text entered. It might take several seconds for the match results to appear.

Optional steps if no matches were found

1. If no matches were found, then select **Use: <your text>**, and then press OK.

2. If you would like to record shows that have your keyword and are in a specific category, then select **Add a category (optional)** .

3. Make any additional selections similar to <u>Advanced Record settings</u>.

4. Once you have completed your selections, select **Record**. A sample list of shows displays that match your Keyword record selections.

5. Select **OK** to schedule the Keyword record or select **Change Settings** to make additional selections in Keyword record for better results.

Related topics

<u>Use advanced record settings</u>

Record an upcoming show or movie

You can schedule a Keyword record to record an upcoming show or movie that might not be in the Guide listings yet. Even if Media Center cannot locate any matching shows in the current Guide listings, it continues to find and record shows until you cancel the scheduled Keyword record.

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. Select **Add recording**.

4. Under **Create a custom recording with**, select **Keyword**.

5. Select either **Movie title** or **Program title**.

6. Enter your text by using the numeric keypad on the remote. A list of matches to the name you entered displays alphabetically. Select an item from the results list and then press the OK button on the remote.

   💡 **Tip**   If you select **Use: <your text>**, then make sure that the text is spelled correctly. Media Center does not check for misspellings or matches that are close to keywords and might not record the expected shows if the text is entered incorrectly.

   📝 **Note**   When you first enter text, Media Center is searching the Guide information for the text entered. It might take several seconds for the match results to appear.

Optional steps if no matches were found

1. If no matches were found, then select **Use: <your text>**, and then press OK.

2. Make any additional selections similar to _Advanced Record settings_.

3. Once you have completed your selections, select **Record**. A sample list of shows displays that match your Keyword record selections.

4. Select **OK** to schedule the Keyword record or select **Change Settings** make additional selections in Keyword record for better results.

Related topics

Use advanced record settings

Record shows containing a generic keyword

You can schedule a Keyword record that finds and records shows that match a generic keyword, such as a favorite sports team, or a historical figure or topic. Even if Media Center cannot locate any matching shows in the current Guide listings, it continues to find and record shows until you cancel the scheduled Keyword record.

For example, if you want to record shows that contain a specific sports team, you might want to set up a Keyword record with the name of that sports team (and associated city) as the generic keyword. To record only live sports events, you can select **Live** under **Show type**.

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. Select **Add recording**.

4. Under **Create a custom recording with**, select **Keyword**.

5. Select **Generic keyword**.

6. Enter your text by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

   ![icon] **Note**   If you enter a keyword that is not specific enough, then too many shows might be recorded and fill up your disk space. Or, if you do not spell the keyword as it appears in the Guide, then some shows might not be recorded as expected.

7. Select **Save**.

8. Select **Add a category (optional)** if you would like to record shows that match your keyword and are within a specific category. If your keyword is not specific enough, then adding a category might assist in reducing the number of matches found.

9. Make any additional selections similar to Advanced Record settings.

10. Once you have completed your selections, select **Record**. A sample list of shows displays that match your Keyword record selections.

11. Select **OK** to schedule the Keyword record or select **Change Settings** to make additional selections in Keyword record for better results.

Related topics

Use advanced record settings

Record by channel and time

Recording by channel and time (Manual record), allows you to schedule a TV recording with a specific start time and end time. If you do not have Guide information, then you can still schedule recordings by using Manual record. When you schedule the Manual record you have the option of naming it. If you do not name the recording, then Media Center names it automatically with the prefix of "Manual" in the title so you can locate it in Recorded TV.

To schedule a manual recording

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. Select **Add recording**.

4. Under **Create a custom recording with**, select **Channel and time**.

5. Use the arrow buttons on the remote and **+/-** buttons on the screen to bring the selections into focus. Detailed information on each option is listed below.

Option	Description
Channel record from.	Use the numeric keypad on the remote to enter the channel number you want to
Frequency on a daily or weekly basis.	Select **Record once** or how frequently you would like the recording to be made
Date	Use the arrow buttons on the remote to select the date for a one-time recording.
Start time whether it is A.M. or P.M..	Use the numeric keypad on the remote to enter a start time, and then indicate
Stop time whether it is A.M. or P.M..	Use the numeric keypad on the remote to enter a stop time, and then indicate
Keep up to	Select the number of shows in a recurring manual recording that are stored in Recorded TV at one time. Choose to keep from one to ten recordings or **As many as possible**. The recorder stores only up to the limit that you indicate.
Keep	Select how long to keep each recorded show on the hard disk: **Until space needed**, **Until I delete**, **Until I watch**, or **For 1 week.** For more information on Keep, go to Use the Keep setting.
Quality	Select from the following options to indicate the desired image quality: **Fair**, **Good**, **Better**, or **Best**. The image quality determines how large the file size is on the hard disk. For example, the default option of **Best** quality records TV with the clearest and most detailed image and creates the largest file size on your hard disk.

6. Select **Add title** if you would like to name the manual recording. Enter letters by using the numeric keypad on the remote to name the recording, and then select **Save**.

7. Select **Record** to schedule the manual TV recording and return to the Recorded TV menu.

   ![icon] **Note**   To record TV shows successfully to the hard disk, your computer must remain turned on, in standby mode, or in hibernate mode.

Related topics

Use the Keep setting

Use standby mode

Use advanced record settings

When you schedule any type of recording, Media Center uses the default recording setting unless you make specific selections by selecting **Advanced record**. You can also change the settings after you have scheduled a recording in Record Settings.

On the Record Settings page, use the **+/-** buttons on the screen to bring your selections into focus. Detailed information on each option is listed below:

Option	Description
Frequency	Select **Record single show** to record one show or **Record series** to record multiple episodes of a TV series.
Show type (Available only when recording a series or multiple episodes in a Keyword record)	Select **First run** to record the shows that have an original air date of less than a week or that are not marked as reruns. Or, select **First run & rerun** to record all shows that fit your setting selections. Select **Live** to record all shows in a series that are aired live.
Record On (Available only when recording a series)	If you select **Any channel, anytime**, then Media Center searches all available channels and all available times for the shows in the series that you wish to record. You can also limit the series recording to a single channel at any time. Or, you can limit the series recording to a specific channel and specific time.
Daily recording limit (Available only when recording a series or multiple episodes in a Keyword record)	Select either **No limit** or **Once per day** to determine the number of recordings in a series that can be made each day.
Keep up to (Available only when recording a series or multiple episodes in a Keyword record)	Select the number of shows in a series that are stored in Recorded TV at one time. You can choose to store from one to ten episodes or **As many as possible**. The recorder stores only up to the limit that you indicate.
Keep	Select how long to keep each recorded show on the hard disk: **Until space needed**, **Until I delete**, **Until I watch**, or **Latest recordings**. For more information on Keep, go to Use the Keep setting.
Quality	Select from the following options to indicate the desired image quality: **Fair**, **Good**, **Better**, or **Best**. The image quality determines how large the file size is on the hard disk. For example, the default option of **Best** quality records TV with the clearest and most detailed image and creates the largest file size on your hard disk.
Start	You can choose to begin recording **On time** or five, ten, or fifteen minutes before the scheduled start time of the show. If you have two recordings scheduled back to back and add to the start time of the second one, then a recording conflict occurs.
Stop	You can choose to stop recording **On time** or five minutes to three hours after the scheduled end time of the show. If you have two recordings scheduled back to back and add to the stop time of the first one, then a recording conflict occurs.

📝 **Note** To record TV shows successfully to the hard disk, your computer must remain turned on, in standby mode, or in hibernate mode.

Related topics

Use the Keep setting

Resolve recording conflicts manually

Use standby mode

Change recording settings for a scheduled recording

Change Recorder settings

Use the Keep setting

The **Keep** setting for a recording determines when it is deleted from the hard disk. You can choose from several different **Keep** settings in **Advanced Record** or **Record Settings** to help you to keep the shows that you want but also maintain available disk space to continue to record new shows. Information for how each **Keep** setting works is listed below.

Keep	Description
Until space needed	If there is no available disk space, then the recording is deleted to make room for any new recordings.
Until I delete	The recording is kept until you choose to delete it. Too many recordings with the **Keep** setting of **Until I delete** could fill up available disk space and cause future shows to not be recorded.
Until I watch	The recording is kept until you watch it. Once watched, it is kept until space is needed for new recordings. Too many shows with the **Keep** setting of **Until I watch** could fill up available disk space and cause future recordings to not be recorded.
For 1 week	The recording stays on the hard disk for one week, even after you have watched it. After a week is up, the recording is kept until space is needed for new recordings.
Latest recordings (Series Only)	Media Center records the latest episodes of your series, deleting older episodes of the same series (whether you have watched them or not). Media Center stores the number of recordings you might have specified in the **Keep up to** setting.

Related topics

Use Advanced Record settings

Change recording settings for a scheduled recording

If you have already selected a TV show to record, but would like to change the settings for Keyword record, one-time show, or series recording, then you can do so in the **Record Settings** menu. The options for **Advanced Record** and **Record Settings** are the same.

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. Select **Scheduled**.

4. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll through the list and select the scheduled Keyword record, one-time show, or series recording that you want to change.

5. Select **Record settings**.

6. Depending on what type of show you select, one of the following occurs:

   - Single show: The **Record Settings** page displays.

   - Show in a series: You are given the option to select either: **Settings for this episode only**, where a subset of recording settings appears that can be changed only for that show, or **Settings for the entire series**, where the complete list of Record Settings appears for the series.

7. Use the arrow buttons on the remote and +/- buttons on the screen to bring the selections into focus. Detailed information on each option is listed below.

Option	Description
Frequency	Select **Record single show** to record one show or **Record series** to record multiple episodes of a TV series.
Show type (Available only when you record a series)	Select **First run** to record the shows that have an original air date of less than a week or that are not marked as reruns. Select **First run & rerun** to record all shows that fit your setting selections. Select **Live** to record all shows in a series that air live.
Record On (Available only when you record a series)	If you select **Any channel, anytime**, then Media Center searches all available channels and all available times for the shows in the series that you wish to record. You can also limit the series recording to a single channel at any time or to a specific channel and specific time.
Daily recording limit (Available only when you record a series)	Select either **No limit** or **Once per day** to determine the number of recordings in a series that can be made each day.
Keep up to	Select the number of shows in a series that are stored in Recorded TV at one time. You can choose to store from one to ten episodes or **As many as possible**. The recorder stores only up to the limit that you indicate.
Keep	Select how long to keep each recorded show on the hard disk: **Until space needed**, **Until I delete**, **Until I watch**, or **Latest recordings**. For more information on **Keep** settings, go to Use the Keep setting.
Quality	Select from the following options to indicate the desired image quality: **Fair**, **Good**, **Better**, or **Best**. The image quality determines how large the file size is on the hard disk. For example, the default option of **Best** quality records TV with the clearest and most detailed image and creates the largest file size on your hard disk.
Start	You can choose to begin recording **On time** or five, ten, or fifteen minutes before the scheduled start time of the show. If you have two recordings scheduled back to back and add to the start time of the second one, then a recording conflict occurs.
Stop	You can choose to stop recording **On time** or five minutes to three hours after

the scheduled end time of the show. If you have two recordings scheduled back to back and add to the stop time of the first one, then a recording conflict occurs.

8.

9. Once you have completed your selections, select **Save** to apply the new settings. To ignore changes to **Advanced record**, select **Cancel**.

   📝 **Note**   To record TV shows successfully to the hard disk, your computer must remain turned on, in standby mode, or in hibernate mode.

Related topics

Use the Keep setting

Use standby mode

Manage Recorded TV

[View the recording schedule](#)

[Remove a show from the recording schedule](#)

[Remove a series from the recording schedule](#)

[View recording history](#)

[Delete a recorded show or series](#)

[Resolve recording conflicts manually](#)

[Resolve recording conflicts automatically](#)

[Change the recording priority for a series](#)

View the recording schedule

The recording schedule displays a list of shows that are scheduled to be recorded.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. Select **Scheduled**.

4. To organize the list, select one of the following:

   - **Sort by date**

   - **Sort by name**

   - **Sort by category**

5. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll through the list.

Remove a show from the recording schedule

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. Select **Scheduled**.

4. To organize the list, select one of the following:

   - **Sort by date**

   - **Sort by name**

   - **Sort by category**

5. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to locate the scheduled recording that you want to remove, and then press the OK button on the remote to select it.

6. On the Program Info page, select **Don't record** to remove the show from the recording schedule.

Remove a series from the recording schedule

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. Select **Scheduled**.

4. Select **Series**.

5. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to select the scheduled series that you want to remove, and then press the OK button on the remote to select it.

6. Select **Cancel series** to remove the show from the recording schedule.

View recording history

To find out the status of a recorded show or find out why a show might not have been recorded, go to the Recording History page.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. Select **Scheduled**.

4. Select **History**.

5. To organize the list, select one of the following:

    - **Sort by date**

    - **Sort by status**

    - **Sort by name**

6. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll through the list. The status for each show is listed as either **Recorded**, **Not Recorded**, **Deleted**, **Canceled**, or **Partial**.

7. To get more detailed information on the recording status, press the OK button on the remote to select that show. The Program Info page displays including a detailed explanation of the history for that recording item.

Related topics

Troubleshoot Recorded TV

Use standby mode

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Delete a recorded show or series

You can delete a show from Recorded TV that has already been recorded. However, you cannot delete an entire recorded series at one time. To delete a series, clear one show at a time as described below. Media Center continues to record the series unless you remove it from the recording schedule, as well as delete all existing recordings.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. To organize the list, select one of the following:

   - **Sort by date**

   - **Sort by name**

   - **Sort by category**

4. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to select the show that you want to delete, and then press the OK button on the remote to select it.

5. Select **Delete** to erase the recorded show from the hard disk.

Related topics

Remove a series from the recording schedule

Resolve recording conflicts manually

If you schedule a recording for the same time as another recording, then a conflict notification appears. Follow the onscreen instructions to resolve the conflict when prompted. If you do not resolve the conflict, then Media Center resolves the conflict automatically and selects which show to record.

After you resolve a recording conflict, the conflict icon continues to display for the show that is not selected to record. In this way, you can return to the conflict and reverse it if needed. Media Center also continues to search for another instance of this show and record it when there is no conflict.

Related topics

Resolve recording conflicts automatically

Resolve recording conflicts automatically

If you do not resolve a recording schedule conflict manually, then Media Center resolves the conflict automatically and selects which show to record. This selection is made based on the following ranked order:

- A one-time recording (not part of a series)

- Series priority ranking (Series recordings, as well as, Keyword record and Manual record can all be ranked in Series Priorities)

- The show that was scheduled first

Sometimes Media Center is able to locate an alternative date and time for one of the shows and adjusts the recording schedule to record both shows.

Related topics

Change the recording priority for a series

Change the recording priority for a series

If Media Center encounters a recording conflict between two series, then Media Center uses the series priorities list to decide which show to record. You can place the series you most want recorded high on the series priorities list to help ensure it is successfully recorded in the case of conflicts. When you schedule a new series it is added to the bottom of the list and has the lowest priority.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. Select **Scheduled**.

4. Select **Series**.

5. Select **Change priorities**.

6. Use the up or down arrow on the screen to move a scheduled series up or down in the list of series priorities.

7. Select **Done** to save changes and return to the Schedule Series page.

Use standby mode

If you set your computer to record TV, then you must have your computer powered on, in standby mode, or in hibernate mode to successfully record a show. Standby mode runs the computer with minimal power until it turns on when it is time to record. When recording is complete, the computer returns the state indicated by your computer power settings.

To put your computer into standby mode

1. Press the STANDBY button on the remote.

2. To take the computer out of standby mode, press any button on the remote, move the mouse, or press any key on the keyboard.

   Note   With some laptop configurations, you might not be able to wake Media Center from hibernate mode with the remote control. You must use the keyboard, power button, or another method that has been provided instead. Media Center can wake to record TV from hibernate mode.

Search TV

Use Search in **My TV** to find a specific show by its title or with a keyword. You can also browse show categories to find shows that match your viewing interests. The TV search looks for shows in the Guide listings only and does not look for shows in Recorded TV or My Videos.

Related topics

Search TV by title or keyword

Search TV by category

Find and play a recorded show

Search TV by title or keyword

Title search looks within show titles to find your specified word. Keyword search looks for your word anywhere in the available data on the show including title and show description.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Search**, and then select either **Title** or **Keyword**.

3. Enter your search text by using the numeric keypad on the remote. A list of matches to your search text displays alphabetically. The search might take a few seconds to complete.

4. To access the results list, press the RIGHT ARROW button on the remote until the first item on the list is selected.

5. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll to the desired show.

Search TV by category

The classifications used in category search are determined by your [Microsoft TV Listings service provider](#).

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Search**.

3. Select **Categories**.

4. Press the right arrow button on the remote to access the category list.

5. Select a category. You might need to narrow the search by selecting a second category.

6. To organize the list, select one of the following:

   - **Sort by date**

   - **Sort by name**

7. Select the title of the show.

Find and play a recorded show

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. To organize the list, select one of the following:

   - **Sort by date**

   - **Sort by name**

   - **Sort by category**

4. To locate a specific item in the list, press the RIGHT ARROW button on the remote to go to the list, and then do one of the following:

   - To scroll through the list item by item, press the UP ARROW button or DOWN ARROW button on the remote.

   - To scroll through the list page by page, press the CH/PG+ button or CH/PG- button on the remote.

   - To jump to a specific item in the list, enter up to four letters by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

5. Press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote to begin playing the selected show.

Change settings for My TV

[Change Recorder settings](#)

[Change Guide settings](#)

[Change the settings for the TV signal](#)

[Change the TV audio settings](#)

[Turn off the automatic start of TV](#)

Change Recorder settings

[Change storage settings for Recorded TV](#)

[Change the recording default settings](#)

Change storage settings for Recorded TV

In storage settings, you can indicate which drive and how much of that drive is allocated for Recorded TV storage. You can also change the default quality setting for each recording.

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Recorder**.

4. Select **Recorder storage**.

5. Use the **+/-** buttons on the screen to bring the recorder storage setting selections into focus. Detailed information on each option is listed below.

Option	Description
Record on drive	Select which drive Media Centers stores Recorded TV on. For Recorded TV storage, Media Center does not support removable drives, network drives, or drives with less than 5GB of disk space.
Disk allocation	Set the percentage of the storage drive which Media Center can use to store Recorded TV. Recorded TV never uses more space than you have allocated.
Recording quality	Select from the following options to indicate the desired image quality: **Fair**, **Good**, **Better**, or **Best**. The image quality determines how large the file size is on the hard disk. For example, the default option of **Best** quality records TV with the clearest and most detailed image and creates the largest file size on your hard disk.
Maximum recording time	Displays the total recording time possible. The maximum recording time is computed based on your disk allocation, drive size, and default record quality selections.
Unused recording time	Displays the actual amount of recording time currently available on the drive that you selected. The unused recording time is computed based on your disk allocation, drive size, and default record quality selections minus disk space currently in use.

6.

7. Once you have completed your selections, select **Save** to apply the settings and return to the Recorder Settings page.

Change the recording default settings

When you change the default recorder settings, you change the settings that Media Center uses for every scheduled recording.

> 📝 **Note**   If you just want to change the settings for a single scheduled recording, then use Advanced Record or Record Settings.

1. Press the START 🪟 button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Recorder**.

4. Select **Recording defaults**.

5. Use the **+/-** buttons on the screen to bring your selections into focus. Detailed information on each option is listed below:

Option	Description
Keep	Select how long to keep each recorded show on the hard disk: **Until space needed**, **Until I delete**, **Until I watch**, or **Latest recordings**. For more information on the **Keep** setting, go to Use the Keep setting.
Quality	Select from the following options to indicate the desired image quality: **Fair**, **Good**, **Better**, or **Best**. The image quality determines how large the file size is on the hard disk. For example, the default option of **Best** quality records TV with the clearest and most detailed image and creates the largest file size on your hard disk.
Start when possible	Select **On time** or one, two, three, or four minutes before the scheduled start time of the show. Media Center adds this additional start time to every recording provided it does not conflict with another scheduled recording. If you change the Start time for a specific recording in Advanced Record, then this default selection is overridden.
Stop when possible	You can choose to stop recording **On time** or one, two, three, or four minutes after the scheduled end time of the show. Media Center adds this additional stop time to every recording provided it does not conflict with another scheduled recording. If you change the Stop time for a specific recording in Advanced Record, then this default selection is overridden.
Show Type (Available only when you record a series.)	Select **First run** to record the shows that have an original air date of less than a week or that are not marked as reruns. Select **First run & rerun** to record all shows that fit your setting selections. Select **Live** to record all shows in a series that air live.
Record On (Available only when you record a series.)	Select **Any channel, anytime** and Media Center searches on all available channels at any scheduled time for the series that you wish to record. Select **One channel, anytime** to limit the series recording to one channel but all scheduled times. Select **One channel only** to limit the series recording to a specific channel within a 4-hour window.
Daily recording limit (Available only when you record a series.)	Select either **No limit** or **Once per day** to determine the number of recordings in a series that can be made each day.
Keep up to (Available only when you record a series.)	Select the number of shows in a series that are stored in Recorded TV. You can choose to keep from one to five episodes or **All episodes**.

—

6. Once you have completed your selections, select **OK** to apply the settings and return to the TV Settings menu.

Change Guide settings

The listings in the [Guide](#) are determined by the TV signal provider, TV signal location, and TV listings package you selected when you set up Media Center.

Related topics

[Edit channel numbers](#)

[Turn on or turn off channels in the Guide lineup](#)

[Add missing channels to the Guide lineup](#)

[Reset the Guide lineup](#)

[Download Guide listings manually](#)

[Turn on or turn off onscreen tips](#)

Edit channel numbers

You can edit channel numbers to remap channel numbers to the correct TV network and related program information. Generally, only one TV network is assigned to a channel number unless it is a shared channel.

> ✎ **Note**   A shared channel broadcasts two or more networks on one channel during different times of the day. For example, from 12 midnight to 12 noon a shared channel might broadcast a shopping network while during the second half of the day it broadcasts a sports network. Media Center can display Guide information only for one network on a shared channel, so Guide information might be incorrect on this channel during the time that the other network airs.

To edit the Guide listings

1. Press the START 🖼 button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Edit Guide listings**.

5. Select **Edit numbers**. A check mark on the **Edit numbers** button indicates that you can edit channels.

6. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll through the list and locate the channel number you want to change. As you select each channel, the inset window displays that channel.

7. Enter the new channel number by using the numeric keypad on the remote, and then press the OK button on the remote.

> ✎ **Note**   If you are editing many channel numbers, then you can select **Sort list** to sort the list numerically by channel number and view the revised lineup.

8. One of the following occurs:

   ● The new channel number is accepted.

   ● The new channel number already exists in the lineup and you are asked to resolve the conflict.

9. Select **Save** when you have completed your changes to return to the Guide Settings menu.

> 💡 **Tip**   Select **Restore default** to remove all changes made to the Guide lineup. The **Restore default** feature turns on all available channels and restores the default lineup mapping.

Turn on or turn off channels in the Guide lineup

To prevent Media Center from trying to access and record channels that you do not subscribe to, you should turn off the channels that are not included in your television service package. You can also turn off channels that you do not watch regularly.

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Edit Guide listings**.

5. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll through the list and locate the channels that you want to show or hide. As you highlight each channel, the inset window displays that channel.

6. Select or clear the check box next to each channel that you want to change. When the box is checked the channel displays in the Guide; when the box is cleared the channel does not display.

   ![note icon] **Note**   Select **Select all** or **Clear all** to quickly select or clear all the check boxes on the Edit Guide Listings page.

7. Select **Save** when you have completed your changes to return to the Guide Settings page.

   ![tip icon] **Tip**   Select **Edit numbers**, and then select **Restore defaults** to remove all changes made to the Guide lineup.

Add missing channels to the Guide lineup

If Media Center is unable to find a Program Guide for your region or the Program Guide lineup is missing a few channels, then you can add them in **Add missing channels**. Guide data is not downloaded for added channels, but you can schedule recordings and tune to added channels, even without Guide data.

To add a missing channel

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Add missing channels**.

5. Select **Add channel**.

6. Enter the name of the network for the missing channel by using the numeric keypad on the remote, and then select **Next**.

7. Enter the channel number by using the numeric keypad on the remote, and then select **Add**. If you enter a channel number that already exists in the lineup, then you are asked to resolve the conflict or identify it as a shared channel.

8. Select **Done** when you have completed your changes to return to the Guide Settings page.

   ✍ **Note**   Select the **Delete** button on the screen next to a channel that you added to delete that channel.

Reset the Guide lineup

The Guide lineup is selected in setup when you identified your Program Guide package. However, if the Guide is displaying incorrect information or lists several channels that you do not subscribe to, then you might try changing to a different Guide lineup in TV Settings.

To reset the Guide lineup

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Reset Guide lineup**.

5. Follow the directions on the screen to select a new Guide lineup.

    Note   If you are unsure which program Guide to select, then inspect your cable bill for more information.

Change the settings for the TV signal

If you have moved to a new location or changed your TV signal provider or Program Guide package, then you might need to set up the TV signal again.

To set up the TV signal

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Set up TV signal**.

4. Follow the directions on the screen to enter your new ZIP code or Postal Code, and then select a new TV signal provider and TV signal package.

Change the TV audio settings

In TV audio settings, you can choose to view captions while watching TV or select an alternate audio channel when available.

To change your TV audio settings

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Audio**.

4. Use the arrow buttons and numeric keypad on the remote to make your selections. Detailed information on each option is listed below.

Option	Description
Audio	Turn on or turn off Secondary Audio Program (SAP). TV allows a simultaneous broadcast of a primary and secondary audio program. SAP could contain an additional voice track such as voiceover commentary or foreign language interpretation.
Captioning	Select the captioning channel. The closed captioning option displays the TV's spoken audio in text format for those who are unable to hear the audio.
Caption display	Turn on or turn off closed captioning. Choose to have the caption display **on**, **off**, or **on when muted**.

5.

6. Select **Save** when you have completed your selections to return to the TV Settings menu.

Turn off the automatic start of TV

When you first enter My TV, the TV starts playing automatically. You might want to turn off the automatic start setting for TV so that you can:

- Go to the Guide, Recorded TV, Search, or TV Settings while listening to music or radio.

- Go to Recorded TV without seeing the show that is currently recording. This is particularly helpful for those who want to watch a recording of a live event (such as sports or reality TV) without spoiling the middle or ending.

To turn off the automatic start of TV

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **My TV**.

4. Select whether you would like TV to start either **Automatically** or **Only when I select Live TV**.

5. Select **Save** when you have completed your selection to return to the TV Settings menu.

Troubleshoot My TV

[Troubleshoot the Guide](#)

[Troubleshoot Recorded TV](#)

[Troubleshoot the TV signal or image](#)

Troubleshoot the Guide

Guide information is incorrect or not available

[There is no information available in the Guide](#)

[There is no data available for one channel in the Guide](#)

[The channel does not match the correct TV network in the Guide](#)

[A TV channel does not appear in the Guide](#)

[The set-top box and Media Center channels are out of sync](#)

Guide download or Internet connection issues

[There is a popping sound when Media Center is downloading the Guide](#)

[My Internet connection does not work](#)

[Media Center cannot connect to the Internet and update Guide information](#)

[There is no dial tone](#)

[The LAN Internet connection is not working](#)

[Check the user name and password for your default Internet connection](#)

[Check the region, country, or language settings for your computer](#)

There is no information available in the Guide

Program Guide information is downloaded periodically through the Internet from the [Microsoft TV Listings service provider](). No Guide information displays when:

- You have not set up the Guide or did not agree to the Terms of Service for the Guide.

- Media Center has been unable to connect to the Internet and download the new Guide information.

- Guide information is not available for your location from the Microsoft TV Listings service provider.

- Media Center determined the existing Guide information on your computer to be expired or corrupt.

To download updated Guide information

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Get Guide data**. When prompted, select **Yes** to begin downloading Guide information.

If Media Center is still not able to download Guide information, then you might need to either set up your Internet connection or ensure that your computer is connected to the Internet. You might also want to try resetting the Guide lineup in Guide Settings.

Related topics

[Reset the Guide lineup]()

[Internet connection]()

There is no data available for one channel in the Guide

If you are getting data in the Guide for most channels but one specific channel does not have data displayed, then the data might not be available from the Microsoft TV Listings service provider. If you have added a missing channel to your Guide lineup, then no data is displayed. You can still watch TV on that channel and set up manual recordings for the shows that air, but Guide information is not available.

To record a show manually on a channel without Guide data

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. Select **Add recording**.

4. Under **Create a custom recording with**, select **Channel and time**.

5. Use the arrow buttons on the remote and **+/-** buttons on the screen to bring the selections into focus. For detailed information on each option, go to Record by channel and time.

6. Select **Add title** if you would like to name the manual recording. Enter letters by using the numeric keypad on the remote to name the recording, and then select **Save**.

7. Select **Record** to schedule the manual TV recording and return to the TV Settings menu.

    Note   To record TV shows successfully to the hard disk, your computer must remain turned on, in standby mode, or in hibernate mode.

Related topics

Use standby mode

Add missing channels to the Guide lineup

The channel does not match the correct TV network in the Guide

If a few channel numbers are not displaying the correct network and related program information in the Guide, then you can edit channel listings. However, if several channels are incorrect, then you might want to change to an entirely different Guide lineup.

To edit channel numbers

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Edit Guide listings**.

5. Select **Edit numbers**. A check mark on the **Edit numbers** button indicates that you can edit channels.

6. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll through the list and locate the channel number you want to change. As you select each channel, the inset window displays that channel.

7. Enter the new channel number by using the numeric keypad on the remote, and then press the OK button on the remote.

   Note   If you are editing many channel numbers, then you can select **Sort list** to sort the list numerically by channel number and view the revised lineup.

8. One of the following occurs:

   - The new channel number is accepted.

   - The new channel number already exists in the lineup and you are asked to resolve the conflict.

9. Select **Save** when you have completed your changes to return to the Guide Settings menu.

   Tip   Select **Restore Default** to remove all changes made to the Guide lineup. The **Restore Default** feature turns on all available channels and restores the default lineup mapping.

To reset the Guide lineup

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Reset Guide lineup**.

5. Follow the directions on the screen to select a new channel lineup.

   Note   If you are not sure which TV signal provider to select, then inspect your monthly cable bill for more information.

A TV channel does not appear in the Guide

A channel that should be available but does not appear in the [Guide](#) might be excluded for one of the following reasons:

- The channel was turned off in Settings—you might need to turn on the channel in **Edit Guide listings**.

- An incorrect Guide lineup might have been selected when Media Center was first set up and you need to reset the Guide lineup.

- Your [TV service provider](#) might have changed their channel lineup.

- There is no Guide lineup available for your region, so you have a generic Guide lineup or a lineup that is close but still missing a couple channels. You must add the missing channel.

To turn on a channel in the Guide listings

1. Press the START [icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Edit Guide listings**.

5. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll through the list and locate the channels that you want to show or hide. As you select each channel, the [inset window](#) displays that channel.

6. Select the check box next to the channel that was turned off. When the box is checked the channel displays in the Guide; when the box is cleared the channel does not display.

7. Select **Save** when you have completed your changes to return to the Guide Settings page.

   💡 **Tip** Select **Edit numbers**, and then select **Restore default** to remove all changes made to the Guide lineup.

To reset the Guide lineup

1. Press the START [icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Reset Guide lineup**.

5. Follow the directions on the screen to select a new channel lineup.

   📝 **Note** If you are not sure which TV signal provider to select, then inspect your monthly cable bill for more information.

If you are still not able to view a channel that should appear in the Guide, then contact your [TV service provider](#) to verify the channel lineup that you receive or subscribe to.

To add a missing channel

1. Press the START [icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Add missing channels**.

5. Select **Add channel**.

6. Enter the name of the network for the missing channel by using the numeric keypad on the remote, and then select **Next**.

7. Enter the channel number by using the numeric keypad on the remote, and then select **Add**. If you enter a channel number that

already exists in the lineup, then you are asked to resolve the conflict or identify it as a shared channel.

8. Select **Done** when you have completed your changes to return to the Guide Settings page.

    Note   Select the **Delete** button on the screen next to a channel that you added to delete that channel.

Related topics

There is no data available for one channel in the Guide

The set-top box and Media Center channels are out of sync

If you receive your TV signal through a set-top box, then Media Center might encounter an error when changing to channels that are not part of your TV service package. The automatic behavior that some set-top boxes have affects Media Center's ability to control the set-top box. When Media Center changes to a channel that is not part of your TV service package, the set-top box might instead:

- Change to a default channel

- Display an onscreen error

- Remain on the last viewed channel

- Change to the closest viewable channel

In all cases, the set-top box performs a default action that Media Center cannot detect and causes Media Center to get out of sync. Media Center attempts to correct itself on the next channel change request. If you have an onscreen error, then you might need to use your set-top box remote control to clear the error.

To prevent Media Center from trying to access and record channels that you do not subscribe to, you should turn off the channels that are not included in your television service package.

To turn on or turn off channels in the Guide lineup

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Edit Guide listings**.

5. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll through the list and locate the channels that you want to show or hide. As you select each channel, the [inset window](#) displays that channel.

6. Select or clear the check box next to each channel. When the box is checked the channel displays in the Guide; when the box is cleared the channel does not display.

   ![note icon] **Note**   Select **Select all** or **Clear all** to quickly select or clear all the check boxes on the Edit Channels page.

7. Select **Save** when you have completed your changes to return to the Guide Settings page.

   ![tip icon] **Tip**   Select **Edit numbers** and then select **Restore default** to remove all changes made to the Guide lineup.

Media Center cannot change channels

If you receive your TV signal through a set-top box, then Media Center cannot control the set-top box to change channels if the IR control cable is not connected. Check your IR cable connection to ensure that the cable is connected.

    ☑ **Note**   If Media Center is not able to change channels, then TV shows might not record successfully until the IR control cable is connected again.

Related topics

Troubleshoot your IR control cable

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There is a popping sound when Media Center is downloading the Guide

If Media Center makes a popping sound when the Guide is downloading, then you might want to turn off taskbar notifications in the Guide. The sound you hear is the audio that accompanies the notification for when the Guide is downloading. However, if you turn off notifications, then Media Center cannot notify you of Recording errors or Guide downloading errors from the taskbar when Media Center is closed or in windowed mode.

Related topics

Turn on or turn off taskbar notifications

Troubleshoot Recorded TV

[I have low or no disk space](#)

[I cannot find my recorded show](#)

[My show was not recorded](#)

[Media Center could not locate the channel to record](#)

[Media Center cannot play a recorded show](#)

[Media Center recorded the wrong show or channel](#)

[Media Center failed to record](#)

[Media Center failed to stop recording](#)

[The Series limit was reached so no additional recordings were made](#)

[Media Center was unable to create the recording file](#)

I have low or no disk space

The notifications for low disk space or no disk space indicate that the drive that stores Recorded TV is almost full. Due to the volume of undeletable shows currently stored on the drive, the Recorder is unable to free enough space to record more shows. You can go to Recorded TV and delete shows to free up disk space or go to **Guide Settings** and allocate more disk space for Recorded TV.

To delete a recorded show

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. To organize the list, select one of the following:

   - **Sort by date**

   - **Sort by name**

   - **Sort by category**

4. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to select the show that you want to delete.

5. Select **Delete** to erase the recorded show from the hard disk.

To allocate more disk space for Recorded TV

1. Press the START ![icon] button, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Recorder**.

4. Select **Recorder storage**.

5. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to increase the disk allocation.

I cannot find my recorded show

You might not be able to find a recorded show for any of the following reasons:

- The recorded show is located on a different drive than the one the recorder storage is set to.

- Your show might not have been recorded or it might have been recorded and then deleted.

To change the default recorder location

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Recorder**.

4. Select **Recorder storage**.

5. Use the **+/-** buttons on the screen to bring the **Record on drive** selection into focus. Once you have changed to a new drive, go to Recorded TV and check for your show again.

To check the history of a recording

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. Select **Scheduled**.

4. Select **History**.

5. To organize the list, select one of the following:

   - **Sort by date**

   - **Sort by status**

   - **Sort by name**

6. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll through the list. The status for each show is listed as either **Recorded**, **Not Recorded**, **Deleted**, **Canceled**, or **Partial**.

7. To get more detailed information on the recording status, press the OK button on the remote to select that show. The History page displays including a detailed explanation of the history for that recording item.

   ![Note icon] **Note**   If you still cannot locate your recorded TV show, then you might want to search the Recorded TV folder. The default Media Center location for the Recorded TV folder is C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Recorded TV.

My show was not recorded

There are many reasons why your show might not have been recorded. First check the Recorded TV history page for information on why the show might not have been recorded. Once you find out why, then go to the table below to jump to information on how to correct the situation or avoid it in the future.

To see the detailed history information for a recording

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. Select **Scheduled**.

4. Select **History**.

5. To organize the list, select one of the following:

   - **Sort by date**

   - **Sort by status**

   - **Sort by name**

6. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll through the list. The status for each show is listed as either **Recorded**, **Not Recorded**, **Deleted**, **Canceled**, **Partial**, or **Conflict**.

7. To get more detailed information on the recording status, press OK to select that show. The History page displays including a detailed explanation of the history for that recording item.

8. To find out how to correct the problem or avoid it in the future, locate in the list below the reason why your show was not recorded and then go to the link provided for additional information.

Description	For more information
There was a recording conflict that resulted in your show not being recorded.	Manage Recorded TV
Media Center determined the show was recorded previously. Media Center cannot record a show in a series if it has already been recorded or deleted within the last 8 weeks.	About recorded TV
There is no available disk space and no recordings could be deleted to create more space to record.	I have low or no disk space
The **Keep up to** series limit that you specified was reached so no additional recordings were made for that series.	The Series limit was reached so no additional recordings were made
There was no TV signal because the channel was not available or the tuner was unplugged or not working.	There is no TV signal
The tuner was in use when the show was scheduled to record and the prompt to change channels to record the show was declined.	About sharing the tuner
Your PC was turned off or lost power during the time the show was scheduled to record.	Use standby mode
The IR cable was disconnected and Media Center could not change channels to start the recording.	Troubleshoot your IR control cable
The TV broadcaster changed the schedule or channel number for a specific network or the show did not air.	Download Guide listings manually

There was a recording error that resulted in your show not being recorded. Media Center failed to record

Media Center could not locate the channel to record

If you are notified that Media Center did not record a show because it could not locate the channel, then you might need to turn on the channel in **Edit Guide listings**, and then reschedule the recording.

To turn on a channel in the Guide listings

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Edit Guide listings**.

5. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll through the list and locate the channels that you want to show or hide. As you select each channel, the _inset window_ displays that channel.

6. Select the check box next to the channel you want to turn on. When the box is checked the channel displays in the Guide; when the box is cleared the channel does not display.

7. Select **Save** when you have completed your changes to return to the Guide Settings page.

   💡 **Tip**   Select **Edit numbers** and then select **Restore default** to remove all changes made to the Guide lineup.

To reschedule a recording

1. Press the GUIDE button on the remote.

2. Go to the TV show in the Guide, and then press the RECORD 🔴 button on the remote.

Media Center recorded the wrong show or channel

If you receive your TV signal through a set-top box, then Media Center might encounter an error when changing channels to begin recording a show. The automatic behavior that some set-top boxes have affects Media Center's ability to control the set-top box. When Media Center tunes to a channel that is not part of your TV service package, the set-top box might instead:

- Change to a default channel

- Display an onscreen error

- Remain on the last viewed channel

- Change to the closest viewable channel

In all cases, the set-top box performs a default action that Media Center cannot detect and causes Media Center to get out of sync and record the wrong channel.

> **Note**   In the case of an onscreen error, no further channel navigation for recording TV is possible until you take action with the set-top box remote. The error might cause several incorrect recordings if you are away from your computer and unable to correct the problem immediately.

To prevent Media Center from trying to access and record channels that you do not subscribe to, you should turn off the channels that are not included in your television service package.

To turn on or turn off channels in the Guide lineup

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **TV**.

3. Select **Guide**.

4. Select **Edit Guide listings**.

5. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll through the list and locate the channels that you want to show or hide. As you select each channel, the _inset window_ displays that channel.

6. Select or clear the check box next to each channel. When the box is checked the channel displays in the Guide; when the box is cleared the channel does not display.

> **Note**   Select **Select all** or **Clear all** to quickly select or clear all the check boxes on the Edit Channels page.

7. Select **Save** when you have completed your changes to return to the Guide Settings page.

> **Tip**   Select **Edit numbers** and then select **Restore default** to remove all changes made to the Guide lineup.

Media Center cannot play a recorded show

Media Center cannot play a recorded show if:

- The recorded TV file is corrupt. Media Center notifies you that the file is corrupt and verifies that you would like to delete it. If possible, Media Center attempts to find another airing of the show and records it.

- The content owner or broadcaster has limited the playback of TV content. Some shows or portions of a recorded show might be restricted to playback on the Media Center PC that it was recorded on. If you attempt to play the recorded TV file on another PC, then Media Center notifies you that the recorded TV file is restricted content and you cannot play it.

Related topics

About content protection for My TV

Media Center failed to record

If you are notified that the Recorder failed to record, then you might want to try restarting Media Center or the computer and then rescheduling the recording. Some recorder failures might require only that you reschedule the recording. Others might be more complicated and require you to restart Media Center, or even restart the computer to correct the problem. In all cases, you should reschedule the recording when notified.

To restart Media Center

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote and then select **Close**.

2. Press START ![icon] a second time to reopen Media Center.

To restart the computer

1. Press START ![icon], and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click Start on the taskbar, and then click **Shut Down**.

3. When prompted, click **Restart**, and then click **OK**.

To reschedule a recording

1. Press the GUIDE button on the remote.

2. Go to the TV show in the Guide, and then press the RECORD ● button on the remote.

If you receive another notification that the recording has failed, then try contacting your hardware manufacturer for further assistance.

Media Center failed to stop recording

If you have been notified that the Recorder failed to stop recording, then you might want to try stopping the recording manually or restarting the computer.

To stop the recording manually press the STOP ■ button on the remote.

To restart the computer

1. Press START ![icon], and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click Start on the taskbar, and then click **Shut Down**.

3. When prompted, click **Restart**, and then click **OK**.

The Series limit was reached so no additional recordings were made

If you have been notified that a recording was canceled because the **Keep up to** series limit was reached, then you might need to change the **Recording Settings** to enable additional recordings for that series. To enable additional recordings for a series you can increase the **Keep up to** limit.

If you want maintain the same **Keep up to** limit but still want to get new recordings for that series, then change the Keep setting to **Latest recordings**. If you select **Latest recordings**, then the recorder deletes older recordings in that series (that you might or might not have watched) to record a newer one within the **Keep up to** limit.

To change how many episodes in a series are kept on the computer

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. Select **Scheduled**.

4. Select **Series**.

5. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll through the list and locate the scheduled Keyword record or series recording that you want to change. Press the OK button on the remote to select the item.

6. On the Series Info page, select **Series settings**.

7. Use the **+/-** buttons on the screen to bring one of the following selections into focus:

   - To specify the number of episodes, select a higher limit under **Keep up to**. For example, if your previous **Keep up to** limit was **3 recordings**, then you can select anywhere from **4 recordings** to **As many as possible**.

   - To save only the most recent episodes, select **Latest recordings** under **Keep**.

8. Once you have completed your selection, select **Save** to apply the new setting.

   ![icon] **Note**   To cancel changes, press the BACK button on the remote.

Media Center was unable to create the recording file

If you are notified that a show was not recorded because Media Center was unable to create the recording file, then your computer might be low on disk space or the Recorded TV folder cannot be found. After you have created more disk space and ensured that the Recorded TV folder exists, reschedule the recording.

To delete shows from recorded TV and create more disk space

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My TV**.

2. Select **Recorded TV**.

3. To organize the list, select one of the following:

   - **Sort by date**

   - **Sort by name**

   - **Sort by category**

4. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to select the show that you want to delete.

5. Select **Delete** to erase the recorded show from the hard disk.

To recreate the Recorded TV folder

1. Press START ![icon], and then select **Close**.

2. Press START ![icon] a second time to reopen Media Center. When Media Center reopens, a Recorded TV folder is created (if it does not already exist) in the default drive location.

To reschedule a recording

1. Press the GUIDE button on the remote.

2. Go to the TV show in the Guide and then press the RECORD ● button on the remote.

Troubleshoot the TV signal or image

[The TV reception is poor](#)

[I can hear the TV audio but the screen is blank](#)

[I can see the TV image but there is no audio](#)

[There is no TV signal](#)

[The video image is too dark](#)

[Video does not display](#)

The TV reception is poor

Your cable connection, set-top-box, or antenna might not be set for optimal TV reception or might be experiencing temporary signal interruption. Contact your [TV service provider](#) or refer to the antenna manual for further details.

I can hear the TV audio but the screen is blank

Your TV tuner might not have an up-to-date driver. See the hardware documentation for information on how to update your driver.

I can see the TV image but there is no audio

If there is no audio, then check that audio is on. Try the following:

- Turn up the volume.

- Check whether you pressed the MUTE button on the remote.

- Check that your speakers are working correctly.

- Check the Microsoft Windows system volume. You might need to adjust your system volume.

Alternatively, your audio tuner might not have an up-to-date driver. Consult the hardware documentation for information on how to update your driver.

There is no TV signal

You cannot watch or record TV if Media Center detects that there is no TV signal. If there is no TV signal, then try the following:

- Ensure that the cable or antenna is connected to the computer. If your TV signal passes through a set-top box, then make sure the cables are attached that connect your TV signal to the set-top box and the set-top box to the computer.

- Contact your TV service provider to ensure that your TV service is not experiencing technical difficulties. Additionally, your TV service subscription might have lapsed or you do not subscribe to a specific channel.

- You might be having trouble with your tuner card. Ensure that it is enabled and a current driver is installed. To troubleshoot further, consult the hardware documentation.

Related topics

Video does not display

Troubleshoot the TV signal or image

Video does not display

If you are notified that Media Center is unable to display an image in the TV screen when you play live TV, recorded TV, or a file in My Videos, then it might be due to a video, decoder, or tuner error. Reference the table below for additional information.

Description   **Try these steps**

Tuner not found (external USB tuner)—The tuner might not be plugged in or have updated drivers.   Ensure that the tuner is plugged in to your PC.

Check the hardware documentation for information about updating the driver.

Tuner not found (internal tuner card)—The tuner card might not be installed, enabled, or have updated drivers. Ensure that the tuner is installed to your computer.

Enable the tuner card in Windows Device Manager.

Check the hardware documentation for information about updating the driver.

Tuner in use—The tuner might be in use by another application. Close all other media applications that are using the tuner and then try again to play Live TV, Recorded TV, or a video file.
Tuner error (invalid TV format)—The tuner hardware does not support the TV format for the country selected.   Ensure that the correct country is selected in the Control Panel settings.

Check the hardware documentation for information on which TV formats are supported by the tuner card in your computer.

Tuner error (general error)—Media Center is unable to tune to the channel requested.   Restart Media Center.

Restart the computer.

Video error—The video decoder is in use by another application. Close all other media applications that are using the decoder, and then try again play Live TV, Recorded TV, or a video file.
Video error—The video decoder is corrupt or missing.   Restart Media Center.

Restart the computer.

Check the hardware documentation for information on how to reinstall the decoder.

Audio error—The audio card is not installed, enabled, or does not have updated drivers.   Ensure that the audio card is installed to your computer.

Enable the audio card in Windows Device Manager.

Check the hardware documentation for information about updating the driver.

Related topics

There is no TV signal

Troubleshoot the TV signal or image

The video image is too dark

The optimal monitor display setting for most PC applications often causes the TV image to appear too dark. You might need to adjust your display settings to view better picture quality in the TV image. To configure your video display, go to **Adjust display settings** in General Settings under **Appearance**.

Related topics

Configure your video display

About My TV in Media Center

My TV enables you to watch TV at your own pace. You can use the [transport controls](#) on the remote to play, pause, fast forward, or rewind live TV or recorded TV. You have even more control over the TV image with replay, skip, slow motion, frame advance, and frame back.

Use the [Guide](#) to check what is currently playing on TV and get more details on each show. Apply a filter to the Guide and view program information on channels that have shows within a specific category. You can also browse for TV shows in **Search** by name, keyword, or category.

Once you find a show that you want to watch, you can choose to record a single show or schedule the entire series to be recorded. You can also schedule a Keyword record, which continuously searches new Guide information for more shows to record; or record on a specific date and time in Manual record. Media Center manages the recordings for you and gives advance warning if there are any recording conflicts.

You can also go to **TV Settings** to change settings for the **Guide**, **TV signal**, **Recorder**, and **TV Audio** settings.

Related topics

[About sharing the tuner](#)

[About recorded TV](#)

[About content protection for My TV](#)

[About storage space management with My TV](#)

About sharing the tuner

Media Center supports a single tuner so only one TV channel can be handled at a time. For instance, if you are watching TV while Media Center is recording, then you can watch only the channel currently being recorded. If you attempt to change the channel, you are notified that changing the channel stops any recording in progress. Alternately, if a recording is scheduled to begin and you are watching a different channel than the recording, Media Center prompts you to change the channel to begin the recording. If you select **Cancel**, then Media Center does not record the show and you can continue to use the tuner to watch TV.

In addition, My TV shares the use of the single tuner card with **Radio** or any other Media Center applications that might require use of the tuner. In Media Center, you are unable to play radio or to watch or record TV when the tuner is in use by another application. If you are using the tuner when a recording is scheduled to start, a notification appears that requests use of the tuner to begin recording.

Related topics

FM radio and the tuner card

About recorded TV

With Recorded TV, you can record your favorite shows and watch them any time you like. You can choose to record individual shows or a recurring series. In **Advanced Record** or **Record Settings**, change the Frequency, Keep, or Quality settings for each recording to make the best use of the disk space allocated for Recorded TV.

Media Center keeps a recorded TV schedule and history for your reference. Go to the recorded TV schedule to view or change what you have selected to record. Alternately, check **Recording History** to see the status of your recorded TV shows.

Before you begin scheduling recordings, you must make sure that you have the correct Guide lineup. In some cases, Media Center could record the wrong show if you have channels listed in the Guide that you do not subscribe to or have inaccurate Guide data. If there is no Guide information for your region, you can still schedule recordings by channel and time in Manual record.

To record TV shows successfully to the hard disk, your computer must remain turned on, in standby mode, or in hibernate mode. Also, if you want to watch live TV and record a show at the same time, you can only watch the show that is being recorded.

Related topics

About sharing the tuner

Record TV

Use standby mode

About content protection for My TV

Some TV content might be marked as protected by the TV content owner, broadcaster, or originator. The terms of the content protection are specified by the content provider and transmitted with the TV show. If the show is recorded, the content protection terms are stored with the recorded TV file and enforced upon playback.

Some shows or portions of a recorded show might be restricted to play on the Media Center PC that it was recorded on. If you attempt to play the recorded TV file on another PC, you are notified that it is restricted content and you cannot play it.

Related topics

Media Center cannot play a recorded show

About storage space management with My TV

With the ability of multiple users to schedule several recordings in a day, the recorder storage space can fill up quickly. The three variables that affect how many shows you can fit on the drive are drive size, allocation, and record quality. To maximize the number of shows that you can store on your drive, do the following:

In **Recorder storage**, ensure that:

• The largest drive is selected to store Recorded TV. For Recorded TV storage, Media Center does not support removable drives, network drives, or drives with less than 5GB of disk space.

• The maximum percentage of the drive is allocated for Recorded TV in the default storage settings.

In **Recording defaults**, do the following:

• Select **Fair** for the default recording quality. The lower the TV image quality, the smaller the file size of each recorded show.

• Select **Until space needed** as the default **Keep** setting for all recordings. This choice ensures that you new recordings can continue to be made and that Media Center does not store the recordings on the drive any longer than necessary.

With these default settings in place you can record and store more shows on your hard disk. However, if there is a show that you need to record at **Best** quality and want to keep for a longer period of time, then you can adjust the settings for individual recordings in **Advanced Record**.

Related topics

About recorded TV

Record TV

Use advanced record Settings

Use the Keep setting

Parental control limits for My TV

Parental control limits for TV and TV movies are supported in Media Center for the United States and Canada only.

Set rating limits for TV viewing

Set advanced rating limits for TV viewing

Set rating limits for TV movies

Watch a blocked show

Change the 4-digit code

Reset parental controls

About parental controls for My TV

I cannot remember my 4-digit code for parental controls

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Set rating limits for TV viewing

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Parental control**.

4. When prompted, enter your 4-digit code by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

5. Select **TV ratings**.

   📝 **Note** The **TV ratings** button does not appear on the **Parental Control** menu if your V-chip decoder is not installed.

6. Use the remote to make your TV rating selections. Detailed information on each option is listed below.

Option	Description
Turn on or turn off TV blocking	Select or clear the check box next to **Turn on TV blocking**. When the box is selected, TV shows that exceed the selected rating level are blocked.
Block or unblock unrated programs	Select or clear the check box next to **Block unrated programs**. When the box is selected, TV shows that do not have a rating or do not have V-chip information in the TV signal are blocked.
Set the maximum allowed TV rating	Use the arrow buttons and the CH/PG+ and CH/PG- buttons to select the rating that cannot be exceeded for normal TV viewing. Select TV-Y, TV-Y7, TV-G, TV-PG, TV-14, TV-MA, or None (block all rated shows). For more information, see TV ratings.
Change advanced TV ratings	Selecting **Advanced** takes you to the Advanced TV Ratings screen.

7. Select **Save** to apply your changes and close TV ratings.

   📝 **Note** Select **Cancel** to close the page without saving changes.

Related topics

Set advanced rating limits for TV viewing

Set advanced rating limits for TV viewing

You can use Advanced TV Ratings to establish additional rating limits for the specific content categories of Fantasy Violence (FV), Suggestive Dialogue (D), Offensive Language (L), Sexual Content (S), and Violence (V).

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Parental control**.

4. When prompted, enter your 4-digit code by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

5. Select **TV ratings**.

   📝 **Note**   The **TV ratings** button does not appear on the **Parental Control** menu if your V-chip decoder is not installed.

6. Set the rating limit for TV, and then select **Advanced**.

7. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to select the rating limit for each content category.

   📝 **Note**   The rating limit you select for each content category cannot exceed that of the global TV rating limit that you set on the previous TV ratings menu. Press **OK** when you have completed your changes.

8. Select **Save** to apply your changes and close Advanced TV ratings.

   📝 **Note**   Select **Cancel** to close the page without saving changes.

Set rating limits for TV movies

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Parental control**.

4. When prompted, enter your 4-digit code by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

5. Select **DVD ratings**.

6. On the **DVD Ratings** menu, you can make the following selections.

To	Select
Turn on or turn off movie blocking	Select or clear the check box next to **Turn on movie blocking**. When the box is selected, DVDs that exceed the selected rating level are blocked.
Block or unblock unrated movies	Select or clear the check box next to **Block unrated movies**. When the box is selected, DVDs that do not have a rating are blocked.
Set the maximum allowed movie rating	Use the arrow buttons and the CH/PG+ and CH/PG- buttons to select the rating that cannot be exceeded for DVDs.

7. Select **Save** to apply your changes and close DVD ratings.

![icon] **Note**   Select **Cancel** to close the page without saving changes.

Watch a blocked show

Whenever you try to watch a live or recorded TV show that exceeds the rating limit established in parental controls, Media Center mutes the audio and displays a message that the show is blocked.

To watch the blocked show

1. Press the OK button on the remote to close the blocking screen.

2. When prompted, enter your 4-digit code by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

3. After the correct 4-digit code is successfully entered, you can watch the blocked show.

   Note   After you unblock a TV show, you can browse away from the channel and back again without having to unblock the channel for up to two hours.

About parental controls for My TV

Media Center allows you to set limits to the rating level that you and your family can view for TV, DVDs, and movies. The first time you use the parental control button in Settings, you must set a 4-digit code before proceeding. When attempting to play Recorded TV that exceeds the allowable rating limit, you must enter a 4-digit code to unblock the show.

Parental controls use two different ratings systems. Movie and DVD ratings are in accordance with the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) scale, while TV shows are rated according to the TV rating system. To support show blocking, a V-chip decoder must be installed. Check with your computer manufacturer to make sure that the parental controls feature is supported.

Media Center allows you to block shows by using the ratings decoder from the TV broadcast signal. However, the rating information that you view in the Guide is downloaded from the Internet and displayed for informational purposes. In rare cases, the Guide rating might not match the rating information received over the TV broadcast signal.

Related topics

Parental control limits for TV

My Music

[Browse My Music](#)

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[Play music](#)

[Add songs and audio files to the Media Library](#)

[Use audio and pictures together](#)

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Browse My Music

[Go to the Recent Music list](#)

[Browse My Music by album](#)

[Browse My Music by artist](#)

[Browse My Music by playlist](#)

[Browse My Music by song](#)

[Browse My Music by genre](#)

Go to the Recent Music list

To go to the **Recent Music** list in **My Music**, press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Music**. The **Recent Music** list displays the songs, albums, artists, genres, or [playlists](#) that you have played most recently.

Browse My Music by album

1. Press the START ⊞ button on the remote, and then select **My Music**.

2. Select **Albums**.

3. To change the way albums are displayed, do one of the following:

   - To view an alphabetical list of albums, select **View by list**.

   - To view the album's cover art in an alphabetical list, select **View by cover**.

4. To locate a specific album and go to the list, press the RIGHT ARROW button on the remote, and then do one of the following:

   - To scroll through the list item by item, press the UP ARROW button or DOWN ARROW button on the remote.

   - To scroll through the list page by page, press the CH/PG+ button or CH/PG- button on the remote.

   - To jump to a specific item in the list, enter up to four characters by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

   💡 **Tip**   To listen to all the albums in the Media Library in alphabetical order, select **Play**. To listen to all the songs in the albums in the Media Library in random order, select **Shuffle**.

Related topics

Input text by using the remote control

Browse My Music by artist

[View music sorted by artist](#)

[View albums sorted by artist](#)

View music sorted by artist

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Music**.

2. Select **Artists**.

    A list of artists in the Media Library appears. Most albums are created by a single artist. If an album in the Media Library is a compilation of various artists, then those artists are listed individually.

3. Select an artist from the list, and then press the OK button on the remote. A list of all the albums containing tracks by that artist appears.

    ![icon] **Note**   To view the album's cover art by album title, select **View by cover**. To view a list of only album titles, select **View by list**. To view all the songs by that artist, select **View Songs**.

View albums sorted by artist

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Music**.

2. Select **Artists**.

3. Select **Sort by album**.

   A list of artists in the Media Library appears. Most albums are created by a single artist. If an album in the Media Library is a compilation of various artists, then those artists are listed individually.

    Note   To view the album's cover art by album title, select **View by Cover**. To view a list of only album titles, select **View by list**.

Browse My Music by song

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Music**.

2. Select **Songs**.

   The **Songs** list displays all the songs in the Media Library in alphabetical order.

3. To locate a specific song in the Media Library and go to the list, press the RIGHT ARROW button on the remote, and then do one of the following:

   - To scroll through the list item by item, press the UP ARROW button or DOWN ARROW button on the remote.

   - To scroll through the list page by page, press the CH/PG+ button or CH/PG- button on the remote.

   - To jump to a specific item in the list, enter up to four characters by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

   💡 **Tip**   To listen to all the songs in the Media Library in alphabetical order, select **Play**. To listen to all the songs in the Media Library in random order, select **Shuffle**.

Related topics

Input text by using the remote control

Browse My Music by genre

You can view all songs or albums for a specific genre such as rock, classical, or heavy metal.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Music**.

2. Select **Genres**, and then select the genre you want to browse **My Music** by.

3. To change the way the list appears, do one of the following:

   - To view an alphabetical list of albums, select **View by list**.

   - To view the album's cover art in an alphabetical list, select **View by cover**.

   - To view an alphabetical list of songs, select **View Songs**.

4. To locate a specific item and go to the list, press the RIGHT ARROW button on the remote, and then do one of the following:

   - To scroll through the list item by item, press the UP ARROW button or DOWN ARROW button on the remote.

   - To scroll through the list page by page, press the CH/PG+ button or CH/PG- button on the remote.

   - To jump to a specific item in the list, enter up to four characters by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

   💡 **Tip**   To listen to all the albums of a specific genre in the Media Library in alphabetical order, select **Play**. To listen to all the songs in the albums in the Media Library in random order, select **Shuffle**.

Related topics

About information for album title, artist name, and genre

Input text by using the remote control

Browse My Music by playlist

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Music**.

2. Select **Playlists**.

3. Do one of the following:

   - To view playlists that you have created, select **My Playlists**.

   - To view playlists that were automatically created by Windows Media Player, select **Auto Playlists**.

4. To locate a specific item and go to the list, press the RIGHT ARROW button on the remote, and then do one of the following:

   - To scroll through the list item by item, press the UP ARROW button or DOWN ARROW button on the remote.

   - To scroll through the list page by page, press the CH/PG+ button or CH/PG- button on the remote.

   - To jump to a specific item in the list, enter up to four characters by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

5. Select a playlist. All of the songs in the playlist appear.

   💡 **Tip**   To listen to all the songs in the playlist in order, select **Play**. To listen to the songs in the playlist in random order, select **Shuffle**.

Search My Music by title or keyword

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Music**.

2. Select **Search**.

3. Enter your search text by using the numeric keypad on the remote. A list of matches to your search text appears alphabetically. Each additional letter entered narrows your search results.

4. To locate a specific item and go to the list, press the RIGHT ARROW button on the remote, and then do one of the following:

   - To scroll through the list item by item, press the UP ARROW button or DOWN ARROW button on the remote.

   - To scroll through the list page by page, press the CH/PG+ button or CH/PG- button on the remote.

   - To jump to a specific item in the list, enter up to four characters by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

5. To select the desired artist, album, or song title, press the OK button on the remote.

Related topics

Input text by using the remote control

Play music

[Play an audio CD](#)

[View the music that is currently playing](#)

[Play music from the Media Library](#)

[Listen to playlists](#)

[Play an album](#)

[Play music by artist](#)

[Play music by genre](#)

Play an audio CD

1. Press the START button on the remote.

2. Insert a CD into the CD-ROM drive. The CD plays automatically.

   Note   If you have other media playing when you insert the CD, Media Center asks you whether you want to play the CD. If you decide to listen to the CD later, then you can find it in the **Recent Music** list on the **My Music** page (press START , and then select **My Music**).

Related topics

Make Media Center the default CD player or DVD player

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Play music from the Media Library

While a song or audio file from the Media Library is playing, you can fast forward, pause, or stop the audio stream. You can also skip to the next track or replay the current track.

Related topics

Fast forward in a song

Pause and play a song

Skip a track

Replay a track

Fast forward in a song

Media Center has three fast forward speeds.

To advance at 1.4 times normal speed, press the FAST FORWARD ⏩ button on the remote one time. Press FAST FORWARD ⏩ a second or third time to increase the speed.

> 💡 **Tip** If you press FAST FORWARD ⏩ a fourth time, then you return to the normal listening speed.

> 📝 **Note** The fast forward feature works only when you are listening to music in the Media Library. You cannot fast forward a song that is playing from a CD in the CD-ROM drive.

Pause and play a song

1. Press the PAUSE ❚❚ button on the remote to halt the song or audio file that is currently playing.

2. Press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote to resume playing the song where you paused.

Skip a track

To skip a track, press the SKIP ▶▌ button on the remote. To go back to the song you skipped, press the REPLAY ▌◀ button on the remote two times.

Replay a track

Press the REPLAY ⏮ button on the remote to restart the current track that is playing.

Play an album

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Music**.

2. Select **Albums**.

3. To change the way albums appear, do one of the following:

   - To view an alphabetical list of albums, select **View by list**.

   - To view the album's cover art in an alphabetical list, select **View by cover**.

4. To locate a specific album and go to the list, press the RIGHT ARROW button on the remote, and then do one of the following:

   - To scroll through the list item by item, press the UP ARROW button or DOWN ARROW button on the remote.

   - To scroll through the list page by page, press the CH/PG+ button or CH/PG- button on the remote.

   - To jump to a specific item in the list, enter up to four characters by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

5. To immediately begin playing the album, press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote.

6. Playback begins, and the album appears on the **Now Playing** page in **My Music**.

   ![icon] **Note**   If you leave the **Now Playing** page while music is playing, then the cover art, song title, and timer appear in the inset window. You can return to the **Now Playing** page in **My Music** at any time by selecting the inset window.

Play all the albums in the Media Library

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Music**.

2. Select **Albums**.

3. Do one of the following:

   - To listen to all the albums in alphabetical order, select **Play**.

   - To listen to all the songs in the albums in the Media Library in random order, select **Shuffle**.

4. Playback begins, and the list appears on the **Now Playing** page in **My Music**.

   ![Note icon] **Note**   If you leave the **Now Playing** page while music is playing, then the cover art, song title, and timer appear in the inset window. You can return to the **Now Playing** page in **My Music** at any time by selecting the inset window.

Play music by artist

1. Press the START [icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Music**.

2. Select **Artists**.

3. To locate a specific item and go to the list, press the RIGHT ARROW button on the remote, and then do one of the following:

   - To scroll through the list item by item, press the UP ARROW button or DOWN ARROW button on the remote.

   - To scroll through the list page by page, press the CH/PG+ button or CH/PG- button on the remote.

   - To jump to a specific item in the list, enter up to four characters by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

4. Select an artist, and then press the OK button on the remote.

5. Do one of the following:

   - To listen to the artist's albums in alphabetical order, select **Play**.

   - To listen to the artist's music in random order, select **Shuffle**.

6. Playback begins, and the music appears on the **Now Playing** page in **My Music**.

   [icon] **Note**   If you leave the **Now Playing** page while music is playing, then the cover art, song title, and timer appear in the inset window. You can return to the **Now Playing** page in **My Music** at any time by selecting the inset window.

Play music by genre

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Music**.

2. Select **Genres**, and then select the genre you want to play.

3. Do one of the following:

    - To listen to all the songs in the genre in alphabetical order, select **Play**.

    - To listen to all the songs in the genre in random order, select **Shuffle**.

4. Playback begins, and the list appears on the **Now Playing** page.

    ![icon] **Note**   If you leave the **Now Playing** page while music is playing, then the cover art, song title, and timer appear in the inset window. You can return to the **Now Playing** page in **My Music** at any time by selecting the inset window.

Listen to playlists

[Create playlists](#)

[Play a playlist you created](#)

[Play an Auto playlist](#)

Create playlists

A playlist is a customized list of audio files that have been grouped together in a specific order. For example, you can create a playlist that includes several tracks from various albums and by different artists. You can create a playlist of theme music to accompany a slide show or for a party.

You can use Windows Media Player to make playlists, and then play them in Media Center.

To use Windows Media Player

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click **Start** on the taskbar, and then click **Windows Media Player**.

3. To learn more about playlists, search Windows Media Player Help.

Play a playlist you created

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Music**.

2. Select **Playlists**.

3. Select **My Playlists**.

4. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to go to the playlist you want, and then press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote. Playback begins, and the playlist appears on the **Now Playing** page.

    ![icon] **Note**   If you leave the **Now Playing** page while music is playing, then the cover art, song title, and timer appear in the inset window. You can return to the **Now Playing** page in **My Music** at any time by selecting the inset window.

Play an Auto playlist

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Music**.

2. Select **Playlists**.

3. Select **Auto playlists**. The playlists that are automatically generated by Windows Media Player appear.

4. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to go to the playlist you want, and then press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote. Playback begins, and the Auto playlist appears on the **Now Playing** page.

   Note   If you leave the **Now Playing** page while music is playing, then the cover art, song title, and timer appear in the inset window. You can return to the **Now Playing** page in **My Music** at any time by selecting the inset window.

View the music that is currently playing

Every time a song, album, artist, genre, or playlist begins playing, Media Center automatically displays the item on the **Now Playing** page in **My Music**. The items on the **Now Playing** page continue to play until each item has been played or you select a new item from **My Music**. You can play the music in shuffled order or repeat the list of music indefinitely.

Related topics

Go to the Now Playing page in My Music

Repeat the music on the Now Playing page

Play music in shuffled order

Play a visualization

Add or remove a visualization collection

Display or hide song information during visualizations

Buy music online

Go to the Now Playing page in My Music

The **Now Playing** page appears automatically when you select a song, album, artist, genre, or playlist to play. If you leave the **Now Playing** page while music is playing, then the cover art, song title, and timer appear in the [inset window](). You can return to the **Now Playing** page in **My Music** at any time by selecting the inset window.

> 📝 **Note**   To display the current song playing and the cover art for the album that contains the song, select **View Song**. To see the current song playing in the list of songs selected to play, select **View Tracks**.

Repeat the music on the Now Playing page

You can play the list of music on the **Now Playing** page in a repeating loop.

To turn on the Repeat function

1. To go to the **Now Playing** page while music is playing, select the [inset window](#).

2. Select **Repeat**. A check mark indicates that the **Repeat** function has been selected and that the music plays in a repeating loop until you press the STOP ■ button on the remote or select another item to play.

   📝 **Note**   You can also select **Repeat** a second time to turn off the **Repeat** function. When you turn off the **Repeat** function, Media Center plays each song listed on the **Now Playing** page once and then stops.

Play music in shuffled order

The shuffle command plays all songs listed on the **Now Playing** page in random order without repetition until all the songs have been played.

To turn on the Shuffle function

1. To go to the **Now Playing** page while music is playing, select the inset window.

2. Select **Shuffle**. A check mark indicates that the Shuffle function has been selected and that the music plays in random order until you press the STOP ■ button on the remote or select another item to play.

   Note You can select **Shuffle** a second time to turn off the **Shuffle** function. When you turn off the **Shuffle** function, Media Center plays each song in the order the song is listed on the **Now Playing** page.

Play a visualization

1. Press the START ▣ button on the remote, and then select **My Music**.

2. Go to any song, album, artist, genre, or playlist.

3. Select the item you want, and then press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote. Playback begins, and the list appears on the **Now Playing** page in **My Music**.

4. Select **Visualize**.

    ▣ **Note**   The name of the visualization collection and visualization effect appears at the top of the screen. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to browse through different effects in a visualization collection. Press the CH/PG+ button or CH/PG- button on the remote to jump to a new visualization collection.

    ▢ **Tip**   You can view information about the song currently playing during the visualization if you turn on song information during visualizations.

Related topics

Display or hide song information during visualizations

Add or remove a visualization collection

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Music**.

2. Select **Settings**.

3. Select **Select Visualizations**. A list of visualization collections appears.

4. Use the arrow buttons to scroll through the list, and then select the collection that you want to add or remove.

5. Press the OK button on the remote to either select or clear the check box next to the visualization collection. When the check box is selected, the collection is added; when the check box is cleared, the collection is removed.

Display or hide song information during visualizations

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Music**.

2. Select **Settings**.

3. Select one of the following options:

   - **Beginning and end of song**—song information appears at the beginning and end of each song.

   - **Always**—song information appears at all times.

   - **Never**—song information does not appear.

4. Select **Save** to save the new setting, and return to **My Music**.

   ✎ **Note**   To save changes to visualization settings, you must select **Save** before leaving **Visualization Settings**. To return to **My Music** without saving changes, select **Cancel**.

Add songs and audio files to the Media Library

Add music to the Media Library

Copy an audio CD

Buy music online

Manage audio files in the Media Library

Get licenses for music in the Media Library

Acquire licenses automatically for music

Acquire a license manually

Provide a unique ID to content providers

Copy an audio CD

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote.

2. Insert a CD into the CD-ROM drive. The CD plays automatically.

   ![icon] **Note** If you have other media playing when you insert the CD, then Media Center asks whether you want to play the CD. If you decide to listen to the CD later, then you can find it in the **Recent Music** list on the **My Music** page (press START ![icon], and then select **My Music**).

3. Select **Copy CD**. Beginning with the first track listed, Media Center copies the CD until it has copied the entire CD. The current track copying is indicated by a spinning CD icon (5) with the percentage of track copied appearing next to it (4). All songs that have been copied are indicated by a check mark icon (2) with the track time appearing next to it (1). If you are listening to the CD while Media Center is copying it, then the currently playing track is indicated by the **Now Playing** icon (3).

4. You receive a confirmation message when the CD has been completely copied.

   ![icon] **Tip** You can also copy a CD by pressing the RECORD ![icon] button on the remote when the CD is selected in the **Recent Music** list on the **My Music** page (press START ![icon], and then select **My Music**). To stop copying the CD at any time, press the STOP ![icon] button on the remote.

Manage audio files in the Media Library

In Media Center, you can browse and play the music in the Media Library. However, if you want to modify information about the songs or audio files, as well as add, delete, and move the files, you must go to Windows Media Player.

To add, delete, move, and rename files in the Media Library

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click **Start** on the taskbar, and then click **Windows Media Player**.

3. Click **Media Library**.

4. 4Right-click the file you want to change.

Search Help in Windows Media Player

1. Press START , and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click **Start** on the taskbar, and then click **Windows Media Player**.

Buy music online

When you select **Buy Music** on the **Now Playing** page in **My Music**, your Internet browser opens the Windows Media Web site. On the Windows Media Web site, you can listen to music samples or buy music by the artist or album you are listening to at the time. You can also find out more information related to the music that you are listening to.

To go back to Media Center, press the START button on the remote or minimize your Internet browser.

Go to the Windows Media Web site.

Acquire licenses automatically for music

Just like in Windows Media Player, you can allow Media Center to acquire licenses automatically for music by enabling the setting in **Privacy Settings**.

To acquire licenses automatically

1. Press the START [image] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Privacy**.

4. Select **Settings**.

5. Under **Enhanced Playback**, select the check box next to **Acquire licenses automatically for protected content**.

Related topics

About content protection for My Music

Acquire a license manually

Provide a unique ID to content providers

Acquire a license manually

If you attempt to access a file that requires a license (and have not turned on the **Acquire license automatically for protected content** setting in **Privacy Settings**), Media Center will notify you that the content is restricted and request that you acquire a license before you can begin playing it. Follow the instructions on the screen to acquire the license. In doing so, you may need to register, provide a unique player ID, or pay a fee depending on the content provider.

Related topics

About content protection for My Music

Acquire licenses automatically for music

Provide a unique ID to content providers

Provide a unique ID to content providers

The Player (used by both Media Center and Windows Media Player) creates an identifier (ID) that Web servers can recognize to uniquely identify your Player. The ID does not contain any personally identifiable information about you.

Some content providers may require you to send a unique player ID before you can acquire a license from them. If you have enabled the **Privacy Setting** in Windows Media Player, and you receive streaming media over the Internet, then the Player sends a unique ID to the server that is delivering the stream or receiving connection information. The server typically uses this unique ID to perform tasks such as monitoring your connections, gathering statistics, and providing access to content. By monitoring your connection, the server administrator can often make adjustments to improve the playback quality and provide additional services.

The Player does not send this unique ID to content providers by default. Note that you may encounter content providers that require you to send a unique ID to receive content. For more information about how a content provider uses the Player ID, see the content provider's privacy policy.

If you do not want a server to be able to uniquely identify your computer when you are receiving streaming media, do not enable the **Privacy Setting** in Windows Media Player.

To provide a unique ID to content providers

1. Press the START [image] button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click **Start** on the taskbar, and then click **Windows Media Player**.

3. On the **Tools** menu, click **Options**.

4. On the **Privacy** tab, select the check box next to **Send unique player ID to content providers**.

5. Click **Apply**, and then click **OK**.

   [image] **Note**   The steps described above may differ depending on what version of Windows Media Player you have installed on your computer. For additional information, see Windows Media Player Help.

Related topics

About content protection for My Music

Acquire a license manually

Acquire licenses automatically for music

Troubleshoot My Music

[No music files appear in the Media Library](#)

[I cannot hear the music that is playing](#)

[More than one sound track is playing at the same time](#)

[An album's cover art does not appear](#)

[A music file does not play](#)

[Album information appears incorrectly, or album information does not appear](#)

[Codec errors are appearing](#)

[My CD does not play](#)

No music files appear in the Media Library

Media Center plays music files from the Media Library. Music might not appear in Media Center for the following reasons:

- Windows Media Player was not used to add the music files to the Media Library.

- The Windows Media Player setting for **Access** rights of other applications is set to **No access** (it must be set to **Read only access** or **Full access**).

To search Windows Media Player Help

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click **Start** on the taskbar, and then click **Windows Media Player**.

I cannot hear the music that is playing

There are several possible reasons why you have no sound. Try the following:

1. Check that the volume is not turned down too low by turning up the volume (press the VOL+ button on the remote).

2. Check whether the sound has been muted (press the MUTE button on the remote).

3. Check that your speakers are plugged in and working correctly. Also make sure that the speaker volume knob is not turned down all the way.

4. Check whether the Microsoft Windows system volume needs adjustment. For more information about adjusting the system volume, go to Volume settings in Media Center.

More than one sound track is playing at the same time

If you were playing other media before you started Media Center, or if you minimized Media Center and started another application that plays audio, then you might have two or more audio tracks playing at the same time.

1. Press the STOP ■ button on the remote to stop the audio playing in Media Center.

2. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

3. Check the taskbar at the bottom of the screen to see whether you have other audio applications open. Close any application that is playing audio.

4. Press START to reopen the Media Center window.

An album's cover art does not appear

If the album's cover art is in an unsupported format or if the cover art is not available, then Media Center replaces the cover art with generic artwork. You can download available information about the album, including the cover art, by using Windows Media Player.

To use Windows Media Player

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click **Start** on the taskbar, and then click **Windows Media Player**.

A music file does not play

A music file might not play in Media Center for one of the following reasons:

- The file is not in a supported file format.

- The file might be corrupted.

- The file might be on a network location that is not currently available.

- You might have pressed the STOP ■ button or PAUSE ❚❚ button on the remote. To restart the music, press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote.

- Your computer might not have an updated license to play the file. Media Center will prompt you to acquire a license before you can begin playing the file.

Related topics

[About content protection for My Music](#)

[Supported music file formats](#)

[I cannot hear the music that is playing](#)

Album information appears incorrectly, or album information does not appear

With your permission, Media Center automatically downloads available album information from the Internet when you copy or play a CD in the CD-ROM drive. If no album information appears, then you might not be connected to the Internet or have not authorized Media Center and Windows Media Player to automatically download the information. If the album information is incorrect, then you can modify it in Windows Media Player.

To authorize Media Center to automatically download music information

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Privacy**.

4. Select **Settings**.

5. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to scroll to the bottom of the page, and then select the check box next to **Retrieve media information for CDs and DVDs from the Internet**.

   ![icon] **Note**   If the check box is selected, then music information is not automatically downloaded from the Internet. If the check box is cleared, then music information is automatically downloaded from the Internet.

6. Select **Save** to save the changes and return to the main **Privacy settings** page.

To use Windows Media Player

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click **Start** on the taskbar, and then click **Windows Media Player**.

Related topics

Work offline

Codec errors are appearing

Codec is an abbreviation for *co*mpressor-*dec*ompressor. A codec is software or hardware used to compress and decompress digital media. You can use Windows Media Player to download codecs for supported file types.

If you get a codec error when playing an audio file, then try opening the file in Windows Media Player. If you have configured Windows Media Player to automatically download codecs and the correct codec is available, then your file should play. You must be connected to the Internet to download the codec file.

To use Windows Media Player

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click **Start** on the taskbar, and then click **Windows Media Player**.

My CD does not play

A CD might not start automatically if the **AutoPlay** feature is turned off in Windows settings.

To change AutoPlay settings in Windows

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click **Start** on the taskbar, and then click **My Computer**.

3. Right-click the drive you use to play CDs, and then click **Properties**.

4. Select the **AutoPlay** tab, and then follow the instructions on the screen.

Related topics

Make Media Center the default CD player or DVD player

About My Music in Media Center

My Music takes full advantage of the power of Windows Media Player by adding an interface through which you can enjoy digital music by using the remote control. Use the remote to copy audio files from a CD or browse and play the audio files you organized in Windows Media Player.

In the **Recent Music** page, view a list of the music you played most recently. You can also browse by artist, album, playlist, song, or genre.

Select the inset window to go to the **Now Playing** page and see what is currently playing. While listening to music, you can play, stop, pause, and fast forward the music. You can also change to a new track by pressing the SKIP ▶ button on the remote or the REPLAY ◀ button on the remote. Make listening to music more interactive by viewing the album's cover art or playing a visualization, or playing a slide show in **My Pictures**. And, of course, you can use Media Center to play and copy CDs that are in the CD-ROM drive.

Related topics

About content protection for My Music

About information for album title, artist name, and genre

Supported music file formats

My Music remote control commands

My Music keyboard shortcuts

Troubleshoot My Music

About content protection for My Music

Licensed or protected files are digital media files that are secured with a license to prevent illegal distribution. The license can specify whether it expires and how you can use the file. The terms of the license are specified by the person or company that provided the file. Just like in Windows Media Player, Media Center cannot play protected files without a license.

If you attempt to access a file that requires a license, you may be prompted to acquire a license before you can begin playing it. There are different ways you can acquire licensed files, but the most common way is to download them from content providers (such as record companies). The content provider may issue a license when you download the file. Otherwise, when you play a file for which you do not have a license, Media Center attempts to acquire one. You may be required to register, provide a unique player ID, or pay a fee first, depending on the content provider.

Another way to acquire licensed files is by copying CDs with the **Copy protect music** check box selected in Windows Media Player settings. By using this option, all the tracks you copy are protected files, and licenses are issued at the same time. If you have not already selected this option in Windows Media Player and attempt to copy a CD in Media Center, you will be prompted to turn on or turn off this option at that time.

For additional information on content protection for music files, go to Windows Media Player Help.

Related topics

Provide a unique ID to content providers

Acquire licenses automatically for music

Acquire a license manually

Manage audio files in the Media Library

A music file does not play

About information for album title, artist name, and genre

Media Center reads and displays information about your music files from the Media Library. Album artist name, track artist name, album title, and genre information is downloaded from the Internet (with your permission) when you play or copy a CD to your computer or when you download a file from the Internet. You can also manually modify album information or add subgenres for your music in the Media Library in Windows Media Player.

Related topics

Manage audio files in the Media Library

Add songs and audio files to the Media Library

Supported music file formats

About My Music in Media Center

Supported music file formats

You can play the following types of digital audio files with Media Center. You can also select Media Center as the default player for any of the listed file types.

File type (format)	File name extension
CD audio	.cda
Windows Media audio files	.asx, .wm, .wma, .wmp, and .wmx
Windows audio files	.wav
MP3	.mp3 and .m3u

Additional audio file formats might be supported if you install new codecs.

For more information about music file formats, go to Windows Media Player Help.

Related topics

About My Music in Media Center

Radio

[Listen to FM radio](#)

[Manage FM radio presets](#)

[Listen to Internet radio](#)

[Troubleshoot Radio](#)

[About Radio](#)

Listen to FM radio

1. Press the START ![START button] button on the remote, and then select **Radio**.

2. Select **Start FM**.

Media Center tunes to the radio station that you were listening to previously. If this is your first time using **Radio**, then you might need to tune or seek a station to begin playing radio.

While listening to FM radio, you can pause, play, stop, skip forward, or skip back in the audio stream. At any time, you can change to a different station by tuning to a specific frequency, seeking the next available station, or selecting a radio preset.

> ![Note icon] **Note**   FM radio is only available in Media Center if your computer has a tuner card that supports FM radio. To find out the capabilities of your current tuner card, refer to your hardware documentation.

Related topics

[Tune to an FM radio station](#)

[Seek an FM radio station](#)

[Listen to an FM radio preset](#)

[Pause and play FM radio](#)

[Stop FM radio](#)

[Skip forward in FM radio](#)

[Skip back in FM radio](#)

Tune to an FM radio station

Tune to a radio station by doing one of the following:

- Go to the radio frequency field, and enter a minimum of three digits by using the numeric keypad on the remote, and then wait a few seconds, or press the ENTER button on the remote to tune to the radio station immediately.

  ■ **Note**   If you enter a frequency that does not correspond to a valid radio station, then Media Center reverts to the previous valid radio station.

- Select **Tune +/-** on the screen to scroll up or scroll down through radio frequencies in increments of 0.2 megahertz (MHz) in the United States or 0.1 MHz in all other countries.

Seek an FM radio station

Select **Seek +/-** on the screen to listen to the next available radio station. If you select **Seek +/-** a second time before Media Center finds a station, Seek mode is canceled and Media Center reverts to the previously played radio station.

Note Media Center does not seek to a radio station that has a weak signal. For additional information, go to Media Center does not detect any FM radio stations in Seek mode.

Listen to an FM radio preset

You can quickly start playing an FM radio preset by entering the corresponding number (1 through 9) on the numeric keypad on the remote.

Note   If the radio frequency field is selected when you enter the number, then Media Center inputs the number to the frequency field instead of going to the radio preset.

Tip   If you browse other parts of Media Center while listening to radio, then you can change to a radio preset by selecting the inset window and then entering the corresponding number on the numeric keypad on the remote.

Related topics

Manage FM radio presets

Pause and play FM radio

1. Press the PAUSE ❚❚ button on the remote to halt radio.

2. Press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote to resume playing the radio where you paused.

    📝 **Note**   Media Center maintains a maximum pause buffer of 30 minutes. If you pause radio for longer than 30 minutes, you will not be able to begin playing at the exact point you paused.

3. To skip forward to the end of the pause buffer and listen to live radio, select **Start FM**.

Stop FM radio

1. Press the STOP ■ button on the remote to halt radio.

2. Press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote to resume playing the radio where you stopped.

   ✎ **Note** If you resume playing the radio within 30 minutes of stopping, then Media Center starts playing the radio where you left off.

Skip forward in FM radio

If radio has been paused for a length of time, then you can press the SKIP ▶| button on the remote to skip forward in the pause buffer. You can repeatedly skip forward in increments of 29 seconds but only until the end of the pause buffer is reached.

Note   If FM radio is paused when you press SKIP ▶|, then FM radio skips forward in the pause buffer and remains paused. FM radio does not resume playing unless you press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote.

Skip back in FM radio

Press the REPLAY ◄ button on the remote to skip back 7 seconds in FM radio. You can repeatedly skip back until the beginning of the pause buffer is reached.

Note If FM radio is paused when you press REPLAY ◄, then FM radio skips back 7 seconds in the pause buffer and remains paused. FM radio does not resume playing unless you press the PLAY ► button on the remote.

Manage FM radio presets

Save your favorite FM radio stations as radio presets so that you can tune to the stations quickly by pressing the corresponding number on the remote. In **Radio Settings**, you can add, delete, sort, and edit all nine of your radio presets.

Related topics

Save an FM radio preset

Delete an FM radio preset

Change FM radio presets

Automatically sort FM radio presets

Listen to an FM radio preset

Save an FM radio preset

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Radio**.

2. Go to the radio frequency field, and then enter a minimum of three digits by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

3. Select **Save** to add the frequency to the next available radio preset slot.

Delete an FM radio preset

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Radio**.

2. Select a radio preset, and then press the CLEAR button on the remote.

💡 **Tip**   You can also delete a radio preset in **Radio Settings**. Select **Radio**, select **Settings**, and then select **Delete** next to the radio preset you want to clear.
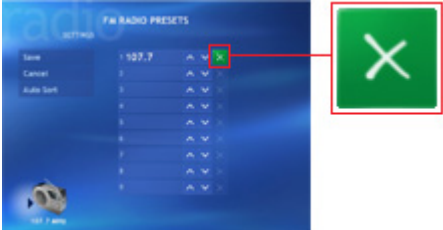
Change FM radio presets

1. Press the START ▦ button on the remote, and then select **Radio**.

2. Select **Settings**.

3. Do one of the following:

   - Go to the text field for the radio preset that you would like to change, and then enter a minimum of three new digits by using the numeric keypad on the remote.

   - Use the up arrow or down arrow on the screen to move a radio station up or down in the list of radio presets.
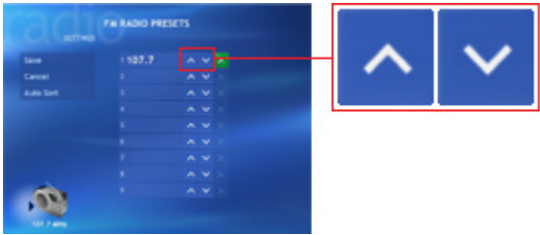
4. After you have completed all your changes, select **Save** to save changes and return to **Radio**.

Automatically sort FM radio presets

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Radio**.

2. Select **Settings**.

3. Select **Auto Sort** to sort the radio presets in numerical order.

    Note   When you select **Auto Sort**, the list is sorted in either ascending or descending numerical order, depending on how the list was sorted when you first went to the screen.

4. Select **Save** to save changes and return to **Radio**.

Listen to Internet radio

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Radio**.

2. Select **Internet**.

3. Select one of the Internet radio Web links from the list.

   ![icon] **Note**   The **Internet** button appears in **Radio** only if one or more Internet radio Web links have been installed. Go to **Online Spotlight** to check whether there are Internet radio Web links that you can download and use in Media Center (press START ![icon], and then select **Online Spotlight**).

Troubleshoot Radio

FM radio does not play

Media Center does not detect any FM radio stations in Seek mode

Why does my FM receiver find more tunable stations than Media Center?

FM radio stopped playing unexpectedly

I cannot fast forward or rewind FM radio

FM radio does not pause

I cannot find FM radio

I installed an FM-enabled tuner and still cannot find the Radio button

I cannot find Internet radio

The Internet radio stations are not the same in Media Center as they are in Media Player

There is a download message or page message when I select one of my Internet radio Web links

FM radio does not play

Because Media Center supports only a single tuner, FM radio does not automatically begin to play if the tuner is currently in use for live TV or recorded TV. To play FM radio instead of playing live TV or completing a TV recording, select **Start FM** while you are using **Radio**.

If FM radio still does not play, then make sure that the cable or radio antenna is attached to the computer and properly positioned for the best signal reception. Refer to your hardware documentation for the preferred hardware arrangement. If FM radio still does not play then please contact your computer manufacturer for more information.

Alternatively, your computer might be having trouble with the tuner card. Make sure that a current driver is installed for the tuner card and that the FM tuner is enabled. To troubleshoot further, refer to your hardware documentation.

Media Center does not detect any FM radio stations in Seek mode

Media Center does not seek to a radio frequency that has a weak signal. If you manually enter the frequency or tune directly to a station with a weak signal, then Media Center plays the station. If you use Seek mode, however, Media Center might bypass the weak signal.

For the best results, make sure that the cable or radio antenna is attached to the computer and properly positioned for the best signal reception. Refer to your hardware documentation for the preferred hardware arrangement. If the FM radio signal is still weak, then please contact your computer manufacturer for more information.

Alternatively, your computer might be having trouble with the tuner card. Make sure that the tuner card is enabled and that the correct driver is installed. To quickly determine whether your tuner card is working, make sure TV works in **My TV**. To troubleshoot further, refer to your hardware documentation.

Why does my FM receiver find more tunable stations than Media Center?

Media Center does not tune to a radio frequency that has weak signal or that is not broadcast in stereo.

For the best results, make sure that the cable or radio antenna is attached to the computer and properly positioned for the best signal reception. Refer to your hardware documentation for the preferred hardware arrangement. If the FM radio signal is still weak, then please contact your computer manufacturer for more information.

Alternatively, your computer might be having trouble with the tuner card. Make sure that the tuner card is enabled and that the correct driver is installed. To quickly determine whether your tuner card is working, make sure TV works in **My TV**. To troubleshoot further, refer to your hardware documentation.

FM radio stopped playing unexpectedly

Media Center supports a single tuner for use by **My TV** or FM radio. If you are listening to FM radio when Media Center is scheduled to start a recording, then a warning appears that says that FM radio stops when the TV recording starts. If you do not select **Cancel Recording**, then Media Center automatically stops playing FM radio and begins recording TV.

I cannot fast forward or rewind FM radio

Media Center does not support fast forward or rewind in **FM Radio**. Instead, you can select the SKIP ▶ button or REPLAY ◀ button on the remote to skip forward 29 seconds or skip back 7 seconds, respectively, in FM radio.

Related topics

[Skip forward in FM radio](#)

[Skip back in FM radio](#)

FM radio does not pause

FM radio maintains a maximum pause buffer of 30 minutes. If you select the PAUSE ❚❚ button on the remote when you are at the beginning of the pause buffer, then Media Center does not pause and continues playing FM radio instead. If you skip forward in the audio stream, then Media Center resumes playing FM radio.

I cannot find FM radio

If you select **Radio** on the Media Center Start menu and only Internet radio stations appear, then FM radio is turned off for one of the following reasons:

- FM radio has been turned off in **Set Program Access and Defaults**.

- An FM radio–enabled tuner card or USB tuner is not installed or not enabled.

- Current drivers for the tuner card or USB tuner are not installed.

    Note   If you have recently upgraded Media Center, then your computer might not have a tuner card that supports FM radio. To find out the capabilities of your current tuner card, refer to your hardware documentation.

To turn on FM radio in "Set Program Access and Defaults"

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, point to **All Programs**, and then click **Set Program Access and Defaults**.

3. Select **Custom**, and then click the down arrow button to expand that option.

4. Under **Choose a default media player**, select the check box next to **Enable access to this program** for **Media Center Radio**. When the box is selected, **Radio** appears on the Media Center Start menu; when the box is cleared, **Radio** does not appear.

If **Radio** is enabled but you still cannot find FM radio, then your computer might be having trouble with the tuner card. Make sure that the tuner card is enabled and that the correct driver is installed. To quickly determine whether your tuner card is working, turn on live TV in **My TV**. To troubleshoot further, refer to your hardware documentation.

Related topics

I installed an FM-enabled tuner and still cannot find the Radio button

I installed an FM-enabled tuner and still cannot find the Radio button

If you have recently installed an FM radio-enabled tuner card or connected a USB tuner that supports FM radio but the Radio button still does not appear on the Start menu, then Media Center might not have detected the added tuner yet. Go to Radio Settings to initiate a check for an available FM radio-enabled tuner.

To go to Radio Settings

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **Radio**. Media Center will check for an available tuner that supports FM radio.

3. One of the following may occur:

    - You will be notified if Media Center is unable to detect a tuner that supports FM radio. Try enabling the tuner again or refer to your hardware documentation to troubleshoot further.

    - Media Center detects the tuner and the **FM Radio Presets** page appears. However, if the Radio button still does not appear on the Start menu, you may need to turn on Radio in **Set Program Access and Defaults**.

To turn on FM radio in "Set Program Access and Defaults"

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, point to **All Programs**, and then click **Set Program Access and Defaults**.

3. Select **Custom**, and then click the down arrow button to expand that option.

4. Under **Choose a default media player**, select the check box next to **Enable access to this program** for **Media Center Radio**. When the box is selected, **Radio** appears on the Media Center Start menu; when the box is cleared, **Radio** does not appear.

Related topics

I cannot find FM radio

I cannot find Internet radio

The **Internet** button appears in **Radio** only if one or more Internet radio Web links have been installed. If you cannot find Internet radio in **Radio**, then try downloading the Web link again.

> **Note**   Go to **Online Spotlight** to check whether there are Internet radio Web links that you can download and use in Media Center (press the START button on the remote, and then select **Online Spotlight**).

The Internet radio stations are not the same in Media Center as they are in Media Player

Media Center displays Internet radio that has been designed for Media Center only. Go to **Online Spotlight** to check whether there are Internet radio Web links you can download and use in Media Center (press the START button on the remote, and then select **Online Spotlight**).

There is a download message or page message when I select one of my Internet radio Web links

If you select an Internet radio station and there is a download message or page message, then either the Web page is not available or the Web page location has been changed. If you encounter this message, then try the following:

- Make sure that your Internet connection is working.

- Refresh the Web page.

- If that does not work, then select the BACK button on the remote and then select the Internet radio station again.

- If the problem persists, then try reinstalling the station.

For further troubleshooting information, go to the Web site from which the Internet radio station was installed.

 Note Go to **Online Spotlight** to check whether there are Internet radio Web links that you can download and use in Media Center (press the START button on the remote, and then select **Online Spotlight**).

About Radio

In Media Center you can enjoy FM radio in Media Center and control playback with the remote control. While listening to FM radio you can pause, play, stop, skip forward, or skip back in the audio stream. At any time, you can change to a different station, by tuning to a specific frequency, seeking the next available station, or selecting a radio preset.

> **Note** FM radio is only available in Media Center if your computer has a tuner card that supports FM radio. To find out the capabilities of your current tuner card, refer to your hardware documentation.

Related topics

FM radio and the tuner card

About Internet radio

Listen to FM radio

Manage FM radio presets

Listen to Internet radio

Troubleshoot Radio

FM radio and the tuner card

In Media Center, FM radio shares the use of the single tuner card with **My TV**. In Media Center, you are unable to watch or record TV and listen to FM radio at the same time. When Media Center is scheduled to start a recording, a warning appears that says FM radio stops when the TV recording starts. If you do not select **Cancel recording**, then Media Center automatically stops radio and begins recording TV.

About Internet radio

You can download Internet radio Web links from **Online Spotlight** that are designed to work with Media Center. The **Internet** button appears in **Radio** only if one or more Internet radio Web links have been installed.

Related topics

Listen to Internet radio

DVD

DVD playback

Set DVD defaults

Troubleshoot DVD playback

About DVD in Media Center

DVD playback

[Play a DVD in the drive](#)

[Change the audio track while a DVD is playing](#)

[Remote commands for DVD playback](#)

[View more information about a DVD that is playing](#)

[Set rating limits for movie and DVD viewing](#)

Play a DVD in the drive

When you insert a DVD in the DVD-ROM drive, Media Center asks whether you would like to begin playing the DVD. Press the OK/ENTER button on the remote to proceed.

To play a DVD that is already in the drive

Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Play DVD**. The default menu for the DVD appears.

1. While the **DVD** menu is displayed, do one of the following:

   - Press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote to begin viewing the DVD.

   - Use the navigation buttons on the remote to select another DVD menu option.

   - Press the BACK button on the remote to close the **DVD** menu and return to the Media Center Start menu.

Change the audio track while a DVD is playing

To change the audio track while the DVD is playing, press **CTRL+SHIFT+A** on the keyboard.

Related topics

Set default DVD audio track

Program the replay and skip buttons on the remote control for DVD playback

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **DVD**.

3. Select **Program remote buttons for DVD**.

4. Select the option you want to use.

    - Select **Skip Chapters** to use SKIP and REPLAY to skip forward and backward through entire chapters.

    - Select **Skip forward and back** or back to use SKIP and REPLAY to skip forward 7 seconds and backwards 30 seconds.

Set rating limits for movie and DVD viewing

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **General**.

3. Select **Parental Controls**. The first time you use this setting, you will need to set a four digit code. Follow the instructions on the screen.

4. Select **Movie/DVD Ratings**.

5. Select or clear the **Turn on movie blocking** check box.

6. Select or clear the **Block unrated movies** check box.

![icon] **Note**   An unrated movie might or might not be approved for family viewing.

7. Use the **+/-** on-screen buttons to choose a movie rating.

8. To apply the ratings, select **Save**.

Remote commands for DVD playback

The remote control provides shortcuts for several commands in DVD. A compiled list of remote commands is provided below for quick reference.

To		Press
Go to the **DVD** menu	-	DVD MENU
Play a DVD in the drive	▶	PLAY
Stop DVD playback	■	STOP
Fast forward	▶▶	FAST FORWARD
Rewind	◀◀	REWIND
Pause	❚❚	PAUSE
Advance frame by frame while paused (slow-motion)	▶▶	PAUSE, and then press FAST FORWARD
Go back frame by frame while paused (slow-motion reverse)	◀◀	PAUSE, and then press REWIND
Go forward one frame while paused	▶❙	PAUSE, and then press SKIP FORWARD
Go back one frame while paused	❙◀	PAUSE, and then press SKIP BACKWARD
Skip to the next chapter	▶❙	CHANNEL +
Skip to the previous chapter	❙◀	CHANNEL -
Skip forward 29 seconds	▶❙	SKIP FORWARD
Skip back 7 seconds	❙◀	SKIP BACK
Change the DVD viewing angle	◀ ▶	RIGHT arrow or LEFT arrow

View more information about a DVD that is playing

To view information about a DVD that is playing, press the MORE INFO button on the remote.

Media Center displays the title of the DVD, the title of the chapter that is playing, the running time, the current time, the genre of the DVD, and the rating, if any.

The information appears for 30 seconds or until you press the MORE INFO button on the remote again.

Set DVD defaults

[Set default DVD audio track](#)

[Change DVD audio settings](#)

Set Media Center as the default DVD player

The first time you insert a DVD in the DVD-ROM drive, a dialog box asks you what you want Windows to do.

To set Media Center as the default DVD player

1. Click **Play DVD Video using Media Center**.

2. Select the **Always do the selected action** check box, and then click **OK**.

Note Setting Media Center as the default DVD player applies to DVDs only. If you want to use Media Center as the default player for other media, then you need to set that separately.

To restore the default Windows DVD player settings

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, and then click **My Computer**.

3. Right-click **DVD Drive**, and then click **Properties**.

4. On the **AutoPlay** tab, in the drop-down list, select **DVD movie**, and then follow the instructions on the screen.

Related topics

Set Media Center as the default DVD player

Set default DVD audio track

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **DVD**.

3. Select **Language**.

4. Use the navigation buttons on the remote and **+/-** buttons on the screen to make your selections for DVD subtitles, audio tracks, or menus.

5. Select **Save** to apply your selections and return to the **Settings** menu.

![Note icon] **Note**   Setting a default language applies to DVDs only. If you want to change the default language for other media, then you need to set that separately.

Related topics

Change the audio track while a DVD is playing

Change the TV audio settings

Change DVD audio settings

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **DVD**.

3. Select **Audio**.

4. In the dialog box, use the mouse or keyboard to adjust DVD settings.

Note Audio settings vary depending on the audio card installed in your computer. Refer to your hardware documentation for more information.

5. Click **Apply**, and then click **OK** to close the dialog box.

Note Changes made to **DVD Settings** will apply to DVDs only and will not change settings for My TV or My Music.

Troubleshoot DVD playback

[Digital audio for DVD is not working](#)

[I can hear the TV audio but the screen is blank](#)

[I can see the TV image but there is no audio](#)

[The video image is too dark](#)

[The DVD video is distorted or does not play](#)

Digital audio for DVD is not working

DVD audio is determined by both the DVD audio settings and the computer system settings. The availability of digital audio is also dependent on the options enabled by the tuner card installed in your PC.

To adjust the audio for DVD in Media Center

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Settings**.

2. Select **DVD**.

3. Select **Audio**.

4. In the dialog box, use the mouse or keyboard to adjust DVD settings.

![icon] **Note**   Audio settings vary depending on the audio card installed in your computer. Refer to your hardware documentation for more information.

5. Click **Apply**, and then click **OK** to close the dialog box.

To configure digital audio for DVD in Windows XP

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, and then click **Control Panel**.

3. In Category View, click **Sounds, Speech, and Audio Devices**.

4. Click **Adjust the system volume**.

5. On the **Volume** tab, under **Speaker settings**, click **Advanced**.

6. In the speaker setup list, select **5.1 surround sound speakers**.

7. Click **Apply**, and then click **OK** to close the dialog box.

The DVD video is distorted or does not play

This might occur if you have installed third-party DVD player software. Remove the third party software to correct the problem.

This might also occur if your DVD drive has been disabled. Check to make sure that your DVD-ROM drive is enabled. For information about how to enable your DVD-ROM drive, see Help and Support Center.

DVD has a different region code and won't play

Some DVDs are encoded for playback only in certain regions. For example, a DVD that is region coded for Japan may not play back if you are in the United States.

It is possible to change the region code on your PC, but this is not recommended.

To learn about changing the region code on your DVD drive, refer to the documentation that came with your computer.

DVD audio options are unavailable

If you are unable to adjust your DVD audio settings, you might not have a decoder installed or your decoder might need to be updated.

In addition to your DVD-ROM drive and DVD player software, you must have either a hardware decoder or a software decoder in order to play DVDs. A hardware decoder also requires a decoder driver; hardware decoders and their drivers are available from third-party manufacturers.

If you have an older decoder installed, contact the manufacturer of the decoder to obtain an updated version that is compatible with Windows XP Media Center Edition.

For more information about DVD decoders, see Help and Support Center.

About DVD in Media Center

When you insert a DVD into the DVD-ROM drive, Media Center asks whether you want to play the DVD. If you select **Yes** or do nothing, then the DVD starts to play automatically. If you select **No**, then you can still play the DVD in Media Center at any time by selecting **Play DVD** on the Media Center Start menu.

You can set language, subtitles, and audio defaults for all DVD playback in **Settings**. To go to the DVD menu (where you can change scene selections, change languages, or browse any special features that may be on your DVD), press the DVD MENU button on the remote.

Related topics

Play a DVD in the drive

Set Media Center as the default DVD player

Troubleshoot DVD playback

Set DVD defaults

Media Center keyboard shortcuts

My Pictures

[Work with picture files](#)

[Play a slide show](#)

[Print pictures](#)

[Use audio and pictures together](#)

[Troubleshoot My Pictures](#)

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Work with picture files

Get organized

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[Touch up a picture](#)

Read more about picture files

[About My Pictures](#)

[Supported image file types](#)

Manage picture files

Make the most out of your pictures by organizing them in Windows Explorer before you play them back in Media Center.

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, and then click **My Pictures**.

3. Click the file you want to change.

   💡 **Tip**   It is recommended that you make backups of your picture files as soon as you download the picture files to your computer. For more information about making backups, see Help and Support Center.

Related topics

Manage picture files

Rotate a picture

Share pictures between users

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, and then click **My Pictures**, or go to the folder that contains the pictures you want to share.

3. Click the file you want to share, and copy it to **Shared Pictures**.

    Note   The **Shared Pictures** folder is located in C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\My Pictures.

Related topics

Manage picture files

Work with picture files

Use the remote to navigate My Pictures

When you start **My Pictures**, a menu appears on the left side of the screen. The right side shows picture thumbnails and might show folder icons if you have organized your pictures into folders. Move between the menu and the thumbnails or folders by using the arrow buttons on the remote.

A counter and scroll arrows appear in the lower-right corner of the screen. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to move up or down. The arrows on the screen indicate the direction in which you are scrolling.

> **Note**   You can click the scroll arrows by using the mouse, but you cannot control them by using the remote.

Related topics

My Pictures remote control commands

My Pictures keyboard shortcuts

View a picture

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Pictures**.

2. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to select a picture or the folder that contains the pictures you want to view. If you have nested folders, then you might need to repeat this step to find the picture you want.

3. Select the picture you want to view. The selected picture appears in full-screen mode.

   ![note icon] **Note** To return to the **My Pictures** home page, press the BACK button on the remote. To go to the next or previous picture, press the FAST FORWARD ▶ button or REWIND ◀ button on the remote.

Related topics

Sort pictures by date or title

Sort pictures by date or title

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Pictures**.

2. Select **Sort by date** or **Sort by title**.

Related topics

Show pictures in random order

View picture details

Select the picture you want to view, and then press the MORE INFO button on the remote. You can also press the MORE INFO button on the remote during a slide show.

Picture details include the file name, the title, the date the file was created or modified (whichever date is first), the picture size in pixels, and the name of the folder where your picture is stored.

Related topics

Rotate a picture

Print pictures

Rotate a picture

You can rotate a picture clockwise or counterclockwise in 90-degree increments.

1. Select the picture you want to rotate.

2. Press the MORE INFO button on the remote.

3. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to select a **Rotate** button.

   Note   Not all pictures can be rotated. If your file is read-only or in a format that cannot be rotated, then the rotate buttons do not work. You might need to use a photo-editing program to rotate the image.

Browse to pictures stored on other media

Browse digital photos directly from the device on which they are stored. Media Center can recognize the removable media.

1. Insert media into the appropriate slot on the computer or memory reader. A message asks what you want to do.

2. Select **View Pictures**.

If you have already installed the media or the message has timed out, then you can go to the picture files.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Pictures**.

2. Select **Other media**. The directory and drive name (for example, **G:**) appear on the screen.

3. Select the directory that contains your picture files, and then work with your picture files as usual.

    Note   Make sure that you have inserted the media correctly or that the media device is connected to the computer.

Related topics

Work with removable media

Zoom in or pan across a picture

You can zoom in and pan across pictures. You can use the zoom feature when viewing single pictures or during a slide show. After you zoom in, you can use the arrow buttons on the remote to pan across the picture.

In full-screen mode, select the picture you want to view, and then press the OK button on the remote.

To	Press OK on the remote
Magnify 150%	One time
Magnify 225%	Two times
Return to normal size	Three times

Turn on or turn off photo captions

A caption displays the file name or title and the date the file was created or modified (whichever date is first).

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Pictures**.

2. Select **Settings**.

3. Select or clear the **Show caption** check box by pressing the OK button on the remote

4. Select **Save**.

For more information about modifying information associated with a file, see Help and Support Center.

Related topics

Work with picture files

Play audio during a slide show

Use shortcuts to view pictures in folders other than My Pictures or Shared Pictures

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, and then click **My Pictures**.

   If you want to create the shortcut in **Shared Pictures**, then go to the **Shared Pictures** folder. The **Shared Pictures** folder is located in C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\My Pictures.

3. On the **File** menu, point to **New**, and then click **Shortcut**.

4. Follow the instructions in the **Create Shortcut** wizard.

Related topics

Manage picture files

Play a slide show

Decide what is in the slide show

[Show pictures in subfolders during a slide show](#)

[Show pictures in random order](#)

Customize the look of the slide show

[Adjust settings for a slide show](#)

[Specify how long pictures appear in a slide show](#)

[Set transition animations between pictures in a slide show](#)

[Set the background color](#)

Flip through the slides

[View a slide show manually](#)

[View a slide show automatically](#)

[Run a continuous slide show](#)

Related topics

[Play audio during a slide show](#)

[Adjust settings for a slide show](#)

Adjust settings for a slide show

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Pictures**.

2. Select **Settings**.

3. Change the settings, and then press the OK button on the remote.

    Note   To cancel your changes, select **Cancel**.

Related topics

Specify how long pictures appear in a slide show

Show pictures in random order

Show pictures in subfolders during a slide show

Specify how long pictures appear in a slide show

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Pictures**.

2. Select **Settings**.

3. Use the DOWN ARROW button on the remote to scroll to **Transition time**.

4. To change transition time in one-second increments, do one of the following:

   - To increase transition time, select the **+** button on the screen, and then press the OK button on the remote.

   - To decrease transition time, select the **-** button on the screen, and then press the OK button on the remote.

5. Select **Save**.

Related topics

Adjust settings for a slide show

Show pictures in random order

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Pictures**.

2. Select **Settings**.

3. Select **Show pictures in random order**.

    Note   Choosing random order overrides any other order you might have used. If you want to show pictures sorted by name or by date, then clear the **Show pictures in random order** check box.

Related topics

Adjust settings for a slide show

Show pictures in subfolders during a slide show

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Pictures**.

2. Select **Settings**.

3. Select **Show pictures in subfolders**.

Related topics

Adjust settings for a slide show

Set transition animations between pictures in a slide show

Choose between three different transition settings for your slide show: animated, cross fade, and none.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Pictures**.

2. Select **Settings**.

3. Select the transition you want to use.

Select this transition	To
Animated	Zoom and pan across image and then fade into the next image
Cross fade	Fade out between images
None	Go directly to the next image

Set the background color

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Pictures**.

2. Select **Settings**.

3. Press the DOWN ARROW button on the remote to scroll to **Slide show background color**. The selected color is the color of the border around any photos that do not fill the screen.

4. Select the **+/-** button on the screen, and then press **OK** to scroll through the list.

5. Select **Save**.

Related topics

Show pictures in subfolders during a slide show

Adjust settings for a slide show

Run a continuous slide show

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Pictures**.

2. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to go to the folder that contains the pictures you want to view in a slide show.

3. Press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote.

   ![icon] **Note**   The default Microsoft Windows screensaver does not start while the slide show is running. If you pause the slide show, then the default screensaver starts as usual.

Related topics

Play a slide show

View a slide show manually

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Pictures**, or go to the folder that contains the pictures you want to view.

2. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to select the picture you want to view, and then press the OK button on the remote.

3. Use the left arrow and right arrow buttons on the remote to go to the next or previous picture.

   💡 **Tip**   This method works well if you want to tell stories while showing your pictures.

Related topics

View a slide show automatically

Adjust settings for a slide show

View a slide show automatically

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Pictures**.

2. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to select the picture you want to view, and then press the OK button on the remote.

3. Press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote to start the slide show.

Related topics

Adjust settings for a slide show

View a slide show automatically

Run a continuous slide show

Pause a slide showPress the PAUSE ❚❚ button on the remote to pause a slide show. The pause indicator disappears after five seconds, and then the entire image is visible. Press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote to resume an automatic slide show, or use the arrow buttons on the remote to go to the next or previous slide.

Related topics

My Pictures remote control commands

Adjust settings for a slide show

Use audio and pictures together

[Play audio during a slide show](#)

[Display music captions during a slide show](#)

Play audio during a slide show

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select either **My Music** or **My TV**.

2. Select the type of audio you want. If the audio does not start automatically, then press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote.

3. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote. The Media Center Start menu appears, but the audio continues to play.

4. Select **My Pictures**. Information about the audio that is playing appears in the [inset window](#).

5. Start your slide show. When Media Center switches to full-screen mode, the inset window disappears but the audio continues to play.

Related topics

[Play a slide show](#)

[About My Music in Media Center](#)

Display music captions during a slide show

You can display information about songs that are playing while a slide show is running. At the beginning and end of each song, the album art, song title, artist name, and album title appear at the bottom of the screen.

Music captions have three display options: **At the beginning and end of each song**, **Always**, and **Never**.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Pictures**.

2. Select **Settings**.

3. Under **Show song information during slide show**, select the option you want to use, and then press **OK**.

4. Select **Save**.

Related topics

Play audio during a slide show

Print pictures

[Print a picture](#)

[Set up a printer to work with Media Center](#)

Print a picture

1. Select the picture you want to print.

2. Press the MORE INFO button on the remote. You can print a picture during a slide show by pressing MORE INFO when the picture you want to print appears.

3. Select **Print**. A dialog box asks you whether you want to print the selected picture.

4. Select **Print** again to continue printing, or select **Cancel** to cancel printing.

   📝 **Note**   Print settings are configured by default in Control Panel. For more information about setting up a printer, refer to the documentation that came with your hardware or see Help and Support Center.

   ⚠️**Warning**   If you do not change your printer preferences, then your picture is printed as a full-page printout.

Related topics

Set up a printer to work with Media Center

Set up a printer to work with Media Center

You can set up a printer profile so that your pictures print to your specifications every time you print from Media Center.

To set up a printer profile

1. Connect your printer according to the manufacturer's instructions.

2. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

3. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, and then select **Printers and Faxes**.

4. Right-click the printer you want to work with, and then click **Properties**.

5. On the **General** tab, type *MCE Default* over the printer name.

To use a networked printer

If you are using a networked printer, then you can change some print settings by modifying your printer preferences.

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, and then select **Printers and Faxes**.

3. Right-click the printer you want to work with, and then click **Properties**.

   ![icon] **Note**   If you do not create a printer profile, then pictures are printed to the default printer for your computer.

Related topics

Print a picture

Touch up a picture

Media Center can make basic touchups to your pictures. You can fix red eye, adjust contrast, or rotate a picture. You can preview and save your changes.

1. Select the picture you want to touch up.

2. Press the MORE INFO button on the remote.

3. Select **Fix picture**. Media Center analyzes your picture and makes the changes.

4. Select **Red eye** or **Contrast**.

5. To cancel specific changes, select **Red eye** or **Contrast**

6. Select **Save** to make your changes final.

   Warning: When you save your change, Media Center will replace the original file. You may want to make a back up of your picture first, before you save the changes.

   📝 **Note**   Not all pictures can be rotated. If your file is read-only or in a format that cannot be rotated, then the rotate buttons do not work. You might need to use a photo-editing program to rotate the image.

Related topics

Manage picture files

Rotate a picture

Print a picture

Picture cannot be fixed

Troubleshoot My Pictures

[Thumbnail does not show picture](#)

[Image is not displayed](#)

[Screensaver does not start while audio is playing](#)

Thumbnail does not show picture

If Media Center is unable to create a [thumbnail](#) of a picture, then Media Center displays a generic picture thumbnail. The picture, rather than the generic thumbnail, will still appear in full-screen mode.

Related topics

[Supported image file types](#)

[Image is not displayed](#)

Image is not displayed

Only supported image types are shown in Media Center. An image that is not a supported image type is skipped during a slide show. If you are viewing single images, then the message "Image cannot be displayed" appears. This message appears if the file type has changed or if the file is corrupted. You might need to modify the image by using a photo-editing program, and then resaving the image in a supported file format.

The following common file types cannot be displayed in Media Center.

Hidden files

Hidden files are not displayed in Media Center.

Animated GIFs

Animated GIFs are not supported in Media Center.

Related topics

Supported image file types

Thumbnail does not show picture

Screensaver does not start while audio is playing

You can change the setting in Windows Media Player to allow a screensaver to run during audio playback.

To change the settings in Windows Media Player

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, point to **All Programs**, and then click **Windows Media Player**.

3. Search in **Windows Media Player** Help for "screen saver" and follow the instructions.

Picture cannot be fixed

Media Center cannot fix all pictures. If the picture is read-only or in a format that the **Fix picture** feature cannot use, then the picture is not fixed. You might need to use a photo-editing program to fix the picture.

Related topics

Supported image file types

Picture quality is degraded

When a file is changed and saved by using the **Fix picture** feature, the file is compressed. Repeated changing and saving of files can result in a reduction in picture quality. To ensure you have the best possible picture, refer to the documentation that came with the digital camera or image-capture device.

Related topics

Supported image file types

Changes to picture files can not be saved

There are a number of reasons your picture might not be saved including file corruption, insufficient disk space on your computer, or the file is set to read only. Try using a photo editing program to save the program or check the picture file properties.

Related topics

Supported image file types

About My Pictures

In My Pictures, you can view your pictures individually or as a slide show. You can sort pictures by name or by date. And you can browse your pictures by using the remote or the keyboard.

When viewing a photo you can press the MORE INFO button on the remote to rotate a picture, print a photo, or see information about a picture.

Pictures can be stored in the My Pictures folder on the computer or on other media such as CompactFlash or a CD-ROM. Each user has a My Pictures folder that only the user can access; however, you can share pictures between users by storing the pictures in the Shared Pictures folder.

In Settings, you can control the transitions between pictures in a slide show. You can also set the display options for the slide show including the background color and what information is displayed during a slide show.

Any audio you have playing continues to run while you view pictures or view a slide show.

If you have music playing while viewing My Pictures, then the inset window in the lower-left corner shows information about the music. You can use the arrow buttons on the remote to select the inset window. If you press the OK/ENTER button on the remote when the inset window is selected, then the home page for the media that is playing appears in the inset window. You can also play music during a slide show. Use the remote to control the music that is playing.

Supported image file types

You can view the following types of image files in Media Center.

File type (format)	File name extension
Joint Photographic Experts Group	.jpg, .jpeg
Tagged Image File Format	.tif
Graphics Interchange Format	.gif*
Bitmap	.bmp
Windows MetaFile	.wmf
Portable Network Graphics	.png

*Animated .gif files are not supported.

Related topics

My Pictures remote control commands

Remote commands for Media Center

My Videos

Use My Videos

Troubleshoot My Videos

About My Videos

Use My Videos

[Navigate My Videos](#)

[Manage video files](#)

[Play a video file](#)

[View video details](#)

[Remote commands for My Videos](#)

[Support for wide-screen displays](#)

Navigate My Videos

When you start **My Videos**, a menu appears on the left side of the screen. The right side shows video thumbnails and folder icons if you have organized your videos into folders or connected to a removable media source, such as a CompactFlash card or wireless drive. Move between the menu and the folders by using the arrow buttons on the remote.

The first time you use Media Center, you might see a message that says "Media Center cannot find your video files." You can move files into the My Videos folder or Shared Videos folder by using Windows Explorer.

The lower-right corner of the screen shows a counter and scroll arrows. To scroll up or scroll down, you can press the arrow buttons on the remote or you can click the scroll arrows on the screen by using the mouse.

If you have other media playing while you are browsing **My Videos**, the other media appears in the inset window in the lower-left corner of the screen. You can use the arrow buttons on the remote to select the inset window. If you press the OK button on the remote when the inset window is selected, you will leave **My Videos** and enter full-screen mode for the other media you have playing.

     ☑ **Note**   You can click the scroll arrows by using the mouse, but you cannot control them by using the remote.

Related topics

Sort videos by date

Sort videos by name

Manage video files

My Videos remote control commands

Sort videos by date

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Videos**.

2. Select **Sort by date**.

    Note   Press the MORE INFO button on the remote to see the created date and modified date for an individual video file.

Related topics

Manage video files

Sort videos by name

Sort videos by name

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **My Videos**.

2. Select **Sort by name**.

Related topics

Sort videos by date

Manage video files

Manage video files

1. Press the START ![START button] button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, click **My Documents**, and then double-click **My Videos**.

3. Click the file you want to change.

   ![Note icon] **Note**   The **Shared Videos** folder is located in C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\My Videos.

Related topics

Share videos between users

Use shortcuts to view videos in folders other than My Videos or Shared Videos

Supported video file formats

Share videos between users

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, click **My Documents**, and then double-click **My Videos**.

3. Click the file you want to share, and then copy it to **Shared Videos**.

    Note The **Shared Videos** folder is located in C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\My Videos.

Related topics

Manage video files

Use shortcuts to view videos in folders other than My Videos or Shared Videos

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Using the mouse, click the **Start** button on the taskbar, click **My Documents**, and then double-click **My Videos**.

   If you want to create the shortcut in **Shared Videos**, go to the **Shared Videos** folder, which is located in C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\My Videos.

3. On the **File** menu, point to **New**, and then click **Shortcut**.

4. Follow the instructions in the **Create Shortcut** wizard.

Related topics

Manage video files by using shortcuts

View videos stored on removable media

1. Make sure your [removable media](#) is connected.

2. Select **Other media**. A folder with the drive name appears. For example, your CompactFlash card folder might appear with the drive name **G:**.

3. Select the folder, and then use your video files as usual.

Related topics

[Work with removable media](#)

Play a video file

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Videos**.

2. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to go to the video you want to view, and then press the OK button on the remote.

Related topics

Pause a video

Play a video in full-screen mode

Fast forward or rewind a video

Skip ahead in a video

View video details

Pause a video

Press the PAUSE ❚❚ button on the remote to pause the video.

To resume, press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote or PAUSE ❚❚.

Related topics

Play a video in full-screen mode

Fast forward or rewind a video

Skip ahead in a video

View video details

Play a video in full-screen mode

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Videos**.

2. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to select the video you want to play, and then press the OK/ENTER button on the remote. The video starts playing in full-screen mode.

   ![icon] **Note**   If video is already playing in the inset window, you can switch to full-screen mode by selecting the inset window and then pressing the OK/ENTER button on the remote.

Related topics

Pause a video

Fast forward or rewind a video

Skip ahead in a video

View video details

Play a video while browsing other media

1. Press the START ![icon] button on the remote, and then select **My Videos**.

2. Use the arrow buttons on the remote to select the video you want to play, and then press the OK/ENTER button on the remote. The video starts to play in full-screen mode.

3. Press START ![icon] to return to the Media Center Start menu. The video continues to play in the inset window.

Related topics

Pause a video

Fast forward or rewind a video

Skip ahead in a video

View video details

Fast forward or rewind a video

Media Center gives you three fast forward and rewind speeds.

To fast forward or rewind at 3 times the normal speed, press the FAST FORWARD ▶▶ button or REWIND ◀◀ button on the remote once. To increase the speed, press FAST FORWARD ▶▶ or REWIND ◀◀ a second or third time.

Press the PLAY ▶ button on the remote to resume normal viewing speed, or press the PAUSE ▋▋ button on the remote to freeze the video image.

> ⬛ **Note**   Not all video formats support fast forward or rewind.

Related topics

[Pause a video](#)

[Play a video in full-screen mode](#)

[Skip ahead in a video](#)

[View video details](#)

Skip ahead in a video

To advance ahead in a video, press the SKIP ▶| button on the remote. You can repeatedly skip forward until you reach the end of the video.

> 📝 **Note**   If you are paused when you press the SKIP button on the remote, the video will advance 29 seconds and remain paused. The show will not resume unless you press the PLAY ▶ button or PAUSE ‖ button on the remote.

Related topics

Pause a video

Play a video in full-screen mode

Fast forward or rewind a video

View video details

View video details

To view video details, do one of the following:

- Select a video, and then press the MORE INFO button on the remote.

- While the video is playing, press MORE INFO.

Related topics

Pause a video

Play a video in full-screen mode

Fast forward or rewind a video

Skip ahead in a video

Manage video files

Remote commands for My Videos

The remote control provides shortcuts for several commands in **My Videos**. For quick reference, the following is a complete list of remote commands.

To		**Press**
Play a video	▶	PLAY
Pause a video	‖	PAUSE
Resume playing a paused video	▶‖	PAUSE or PLAY
Fast forward	▶▶	FF
Rewind	◀◀	RW
Skip ahead	▶|	SKIP FORWARD
View video details	-	MORE INFO

Related topics

Use shortcuts to view videos in folders other than My Videos or Shared Videos

Keyboard shortcuts in My Videos

Troubleshoot My Videos

[Video does not play](#)

[Video does not fast forward or rewind](#)

Video does not play

The file might be corrupted or in an unsupported format. You might need to open the file by using a video editor and then resave the file in a supported format.

There might also be a problem with the [codec](). To learn more about codecs, search Windows Media Player Help. Try opening the file by using Windows Media Player. Windows Media Player might download the codec automatically.

1. Press the START button on the remote, and then select **Minimize**.

2. Click **Start** on the taskbar, and then click **Windows Media Player**.

Related topics

[Supported video file formats]()

Video does not fast forward or rewind

Not all video formats support fast forward and rewind.

Related topics

Supported video file formats

About My Videos

In **My Videos**, you can play digital videos or sort them by name or by date. You can also browse videos by using the remote or the keyboard.

Videos are stored in the **My Videos** folder on your computer. Users have their own My Videos folder that only they can access; however, you can share videos between users by storing your videos in the **Shared Videos** folder.

Related topics

About video files

Supported video file formats

Use My Videos

Troubleshoot My Videos

About video files

When you save digital videos from your camera, Windows XP stores them in the **My Videos** folder by default. You can share videos with others by storing them in the **Shared Videos** folders. After your videos are organized, you can view them by using Media Center. You can also store videos that you downloaded from the Internet in the **Shared Videos** folder or **My Videos** folder.

In addition to video files that are stored on your computer, you can use Media Center to work with video files that are stored on removable media.

Related topics

Manage video files

Supported video file formats

Manage video files by using shortcuts

If you do not want to move or copy your videos into the **My Videos** folder or **Shared Videos** folder, you can make shortcuts to the videos or to the folders that contain them.

For example, your birthday party videos are stored in the C:\Videos\BirthdayParty folder that you have created. In the **My Videos** folder or the **Shared Videos** folder, create a shortcut to C:\Videos\BirthdayParty. When you start Media Center and go to **My Videos**, you are able to see the shortcuts to the folder that contains the videos that you want to see.

You can also create a shortcut directly to a specific video. If you want to see C:\Photos\BirthdayParty\BirthdayCake.mpg by using Media Center, create a shortcut for the video file in the **My Videos** folder.

Related topics

Use shortcuts to view videos in folders other than My Videos or Shared Videos

Supported video file formats

The following types of videos can be viewed in Media Center.

File type (format)	File name extension
Windows Media file	.wm, .asf
Windows Media A/V	.wmv
Video file	.avi
Movie file	.mpeg, .mpg, .mpe, .m1v, .mp2, .mpv2

Additional video file formats might be supported if you install new codecs.

Related topics

Troubleshoot My Videos

Media Center Technical Support

Because Windows XP Media Center Edition was included with your hardware device or system, the hardware manufacturer provides technical support and assistance for this software. Your manufacturer may have customized the installation with unique components such as specific device drivers and optional settings to maximize the performance of their hardware. If you need technical assistance with Windows XP Media Center Edition, please contact your manufacturer directly because they are best-qualified to support the software that they have installed on their hardware.

You can also visit the Windows XP Media Center Edition product information Web site.

Support services from Microsoft are subject to then-current prices, terms, and conditions, which are subject to change without notice.

Glossary

To find a term in the glossary, click the letter of the alphabet that is the first letter in the term you want to look up.

You can also read glossary terms within the text of Help by clicking the underlined glossary term links. After you click a glossary link, the glossary term and definition appear in a pop-up window. To close the window, click anywhere on the screen.

A   B   C   D   E   F   G   H   I   J   K   L   M

N   O   P   Q   R   S   T   U   V   W   X   Y   Z

C

coaxial cable

Coaxial cable, also known as RF cable, is the cable type that carries the signal of various devices such as TVs and video gaming consoles.

codec

An abbreviation for compressor/decompressor. Software or hardware used to compress and decompress digital media.

Control codes

Sets of frequencies that set-top boxes use to communicate with infrared (IR) devices such as remote controls. There are many different sets of control codes in existence.

Back to Top

I

inset window

The window in the lower left corner of the screen. The inset window displays currently playing TV, video, DVDs, or the album art for music that is playing.

Back to Top

M

metadata

Data about data. Title, subject, author, and size are examples of a file's metadata.

Microsoft TV Listings service provider

A service contracted by Microsoft that provides TV listings information for the Electronic Program Guide.

Back to Top

P

playlist

A list of digital media content.

Program Guide

An onscreen listing of upcoming programs and information available through media services such as cable television and satellite television.

R

remote sensor

The device that receives InfraRed (IR) signals from other devices, like a remote control. Remote sensors could be peripheral devices, or could also be built into either computers or monitors.

removable media

Any type of storage that is not permanently attached to the computer. This includes CompactFlash, memory stick, wireless drives, and other portable storage media.

T

thumbnail

A reduced image of a graphic, used to display multiple images at once.

transport controls

Transport controls are used to play, pause, fast forward, rewind, stop, and record media, or to change channels, adjust the volume, and mute the sound. Transport controls are located both on screen in menu bar mode and on the remote control.

TV service provider

The analog, digital, or cable TV provider that you subscribe to for your television service.

TV signal cable

A coaxial or RF cable that connects the source of the cable, satellite, or rooftop TV signal to the TV or computer.

V

video capture device

An add-on device for digitizing video images for use on a computer.