The Keyboard (and Particularly ⊞) Are Your Friends in Windows 8

The Starter Set

Show the Start Screen: ⊞

Show the Desktop ⊞ + D

Find Program: ⊞ and start typing the program name.

Metro Keystrokes

Show the Charms menu: ⊞ + C

Search for apps: ⊞ + Q

Search for settings: ⊞ + W

Search for files: ⊞ + F

Show Share charm: ⊞ + H

Show Device charm: ⊞ + K

Show recently used apps: ⊞ + Tab

Show app bars: ⊞ + Z

Snap current window left, right, or full: ⊞ + Period

Pinch and Flick on the Metro Interface ("Semantic Zoom")

Two options: Zoom in or out with Ctrl + the mouse wheel

Zoom in: Ctrl + Shift + Plus

Zoom out: Ctrl + Shift + Minus

Old Favorites

Cycle between apps: Alt + Tab

Close an app or a program: Alt + F4

Old menus in Desktop applications: Most of the old menus are still there. Press the Alt key.

Monitor Functions (Including Multiple Monitors)

Screen shot (all screens): ⊞ + PrtScn

Projection options: ⊞ + P

Move active Desktop window to left/right monitor: ⊞ + Shift + Left Arrow / ⊞ + Shift + Right Arrow

Move Modern UI to left/right monitor: ⊞ + Page Up / ⊞ + Page Down

Desktop Keystrokes

Snap the active window to the left/right of the screen: ⊞ + Left Arrow / ⊞ + Right Arrow

Maximize/Minimize current window: ⊞ + Up Arrow / ⊞ + Down Arrow

Stretch current window: ⊞ + Shift + Up Arrow

Minimize all windows: ⊞ + M

View Windows Explorer: ⊞ + E

Display the Desktop background: ⊞ + Comma

Change the size of Desktop icons: Ctrl + Mouse Wheel

For Power Users (Some are Old Favorites)

Advanced user commands: ⊞ + X

Run command: ⊞ + R

System Properties: ⊞ + Break

Task Manager: Ctrl + Shift + Esc

In File Explorer, go up one level in the directory structure: Alt + Up Arrow

For Tablets Only

Lock automatic rotation: ⊞ + O

Access Keys

Open the Ease of Access Center: ⊞ + U

Start the Narrator: ⊞ + Enter

Switch to High Contrast: Left Alt + Left Shift + PrtSc

Turn on Mouse Keys: Left Alt + Left Shift + NumLock

Toggle Keys: Hold Numlock for 5 seconds

Filter Keys: Hold Shift for 8 seconds

Sticky Keys: Press Shift 5 times

Start Magnifier and zoom: ⊞ + Plus Sign

Magnifier zoom out: ⊞ + Minus Sign

Dock Magnifier on Desktop: Ctrl + Alt + D

Run Magnifier in full screen mode: Ctrl + Alt + F

Invert colors in Magnifier: Ctrl + Alt + I

Set Magnifier to lens mode: Ctrl + Alt + L

Exit Magnifier: ⊞ + Esc