

HOW TO INSTALL WINDOWS 10

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

[Read the original article](#)



By **Ionut-Alexandru Popa**

REQUIREMENTS

- A computer with at least a storage drive, preferably unformatted. Minimum hardware requirements [are listed here](#).
- A bootable USB disk 8 GB or larger.
- A working computer with an Internet connection so you can download Windows and create a bootable disk.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO INSTALL WINDOWS 10?

The time it takes to install Windows 10 will depend on how fast your PC is, but on modern hardware it shouldn't take more than 10 – 15 minutes.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you already have a Windows install medium (DVD or USB key) you don't need a working computer to create the installer disk.

Recommended read: [How to download Windows 10](#), [How to create a USB bootable disk](#)

Two thin green lines intersecting on the left side of the slide. One line is horizontal, and the other is diagonal, crossing it.

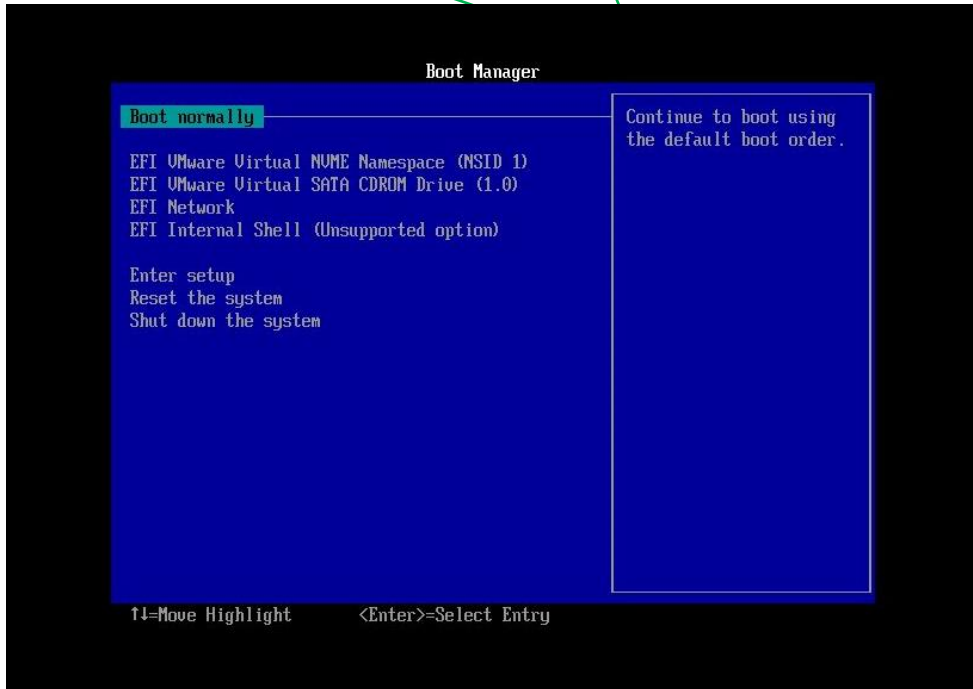
STEP 1:

Insert the bootable DVD into the optical bay or the USB disk into your computer.

Note: if using a tower case insert the USB drive into one of the rear ports. Front-panel USB connectors can cause a lot of issues during the install process.

STEP 2:

Press the F8 key multiple times while the computer starts to open the Boot Manager menu.



STEP 3:

Select the drive unit that contains the Windows 10 installer. Some drives could show up twice. If that's the case, I recommend you chose the version that uses EFI or UEFI. This is the modern way to install Windows 10 and it's not possible to change without reinstalling Windows.

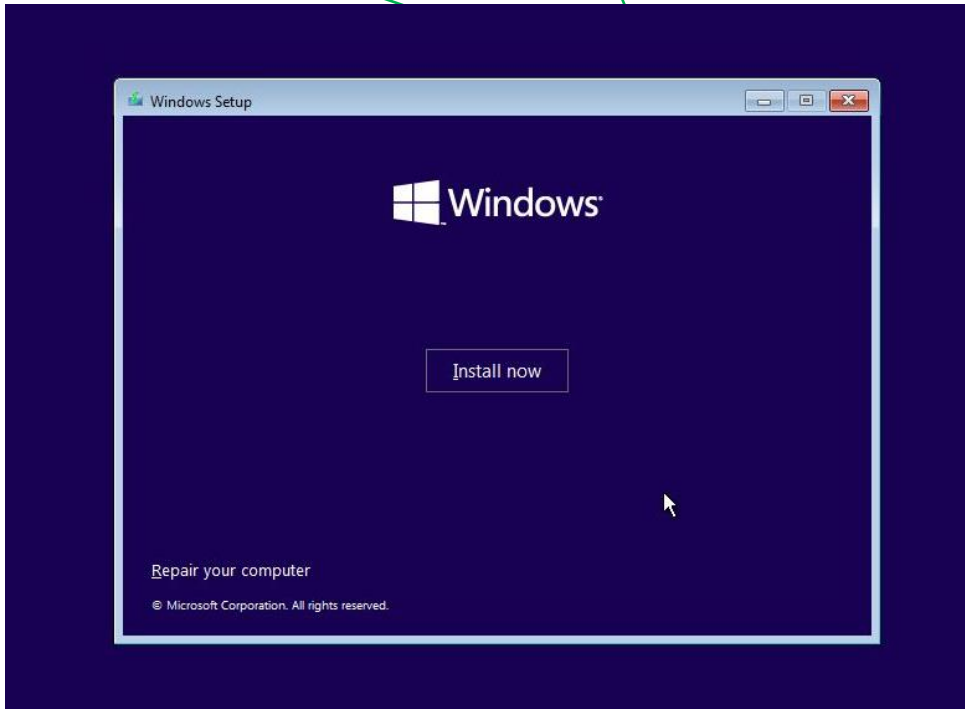


Press any key to boot from CD or DVD...._

STEP 4:

A message to **Press any key to boot from the CD or DVD...** appears. Pressing any key will start the Windows 10 install process and the Windows 10 logo will appear.





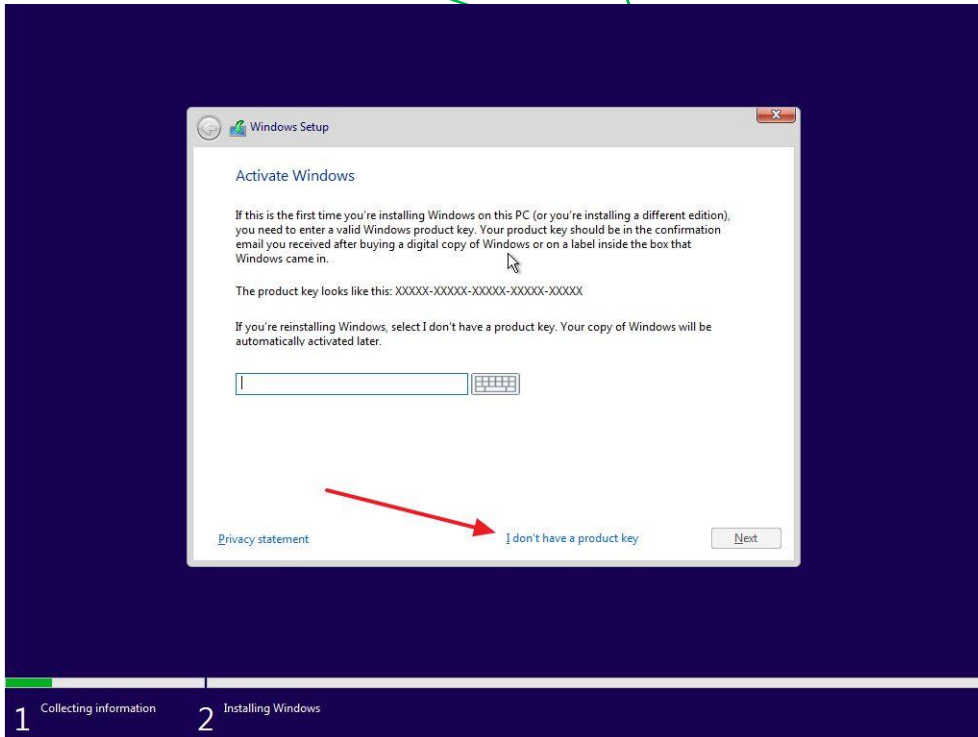
STEP 5:

The first step is to choose to Install now. There's also an option to Repair your computer. We won't be doing that now.



STEP 6:

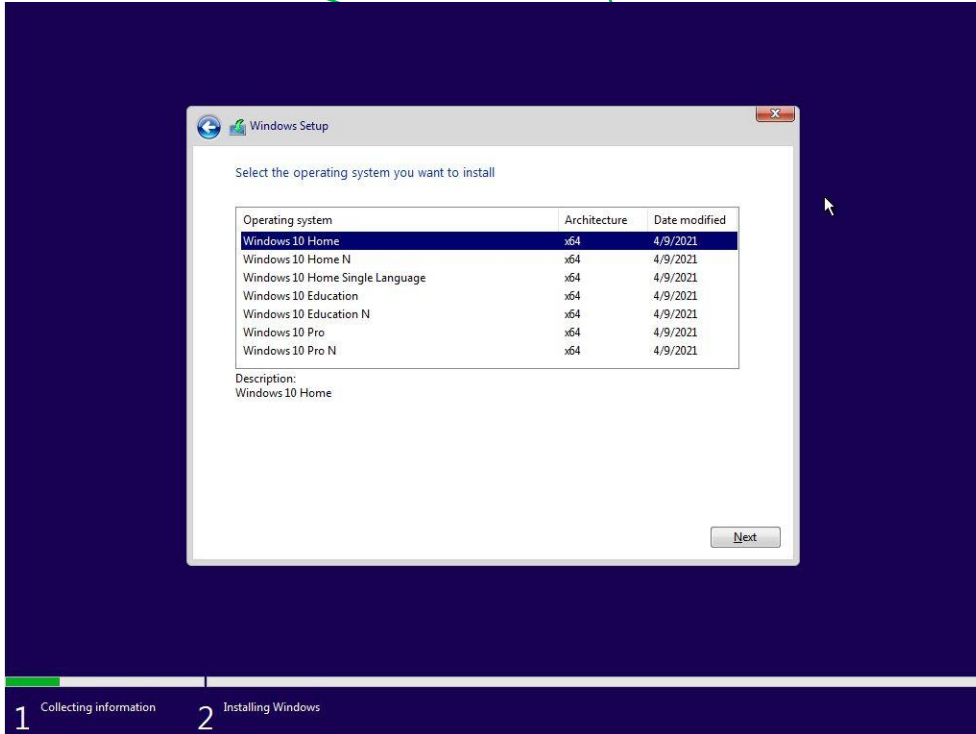
Next, we'll need to choose the **language of the interface, the time and currency format, and the keyboard layout**. You can mix and match these to your liking and don't have to reflect the actual location where you'll be using the PC or the actual keyboard layout. You can change them later after the install if needed.



STEP 7:

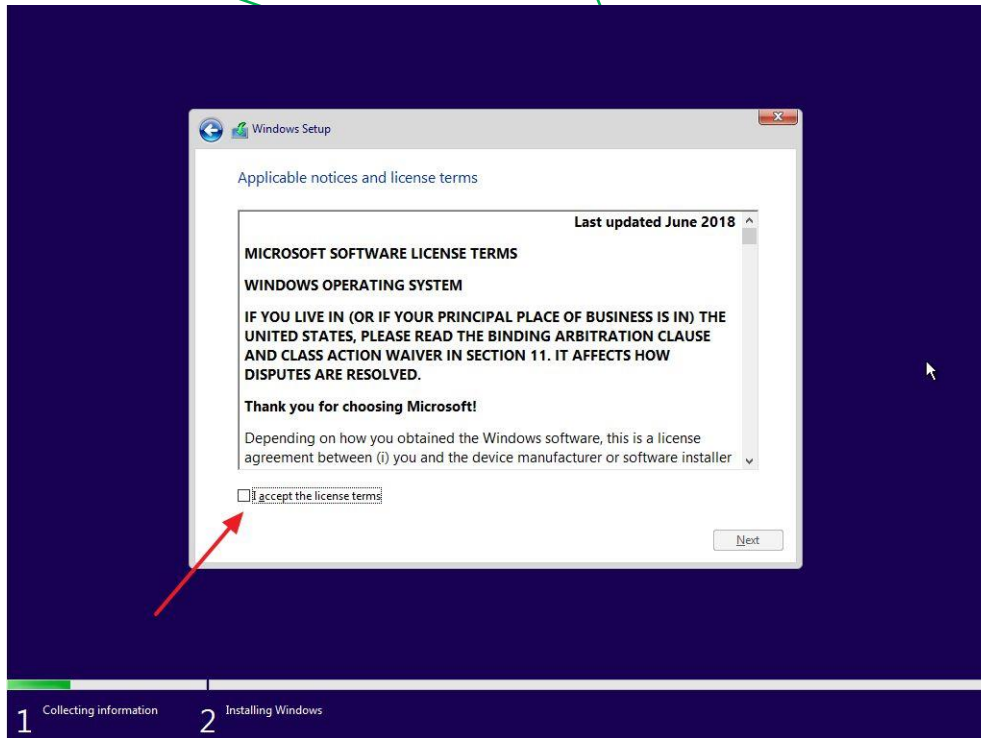
Next step is to **enter the Windows 10 product key**. You can skip this step if you want to activate Windows later on. I've explored already [what happens if you don't activate your copy of Windows](#) and keep using it.

If not, make sure you enter the correct code. It's made up of 25 characters (5 groups of 5 letters and numbers)



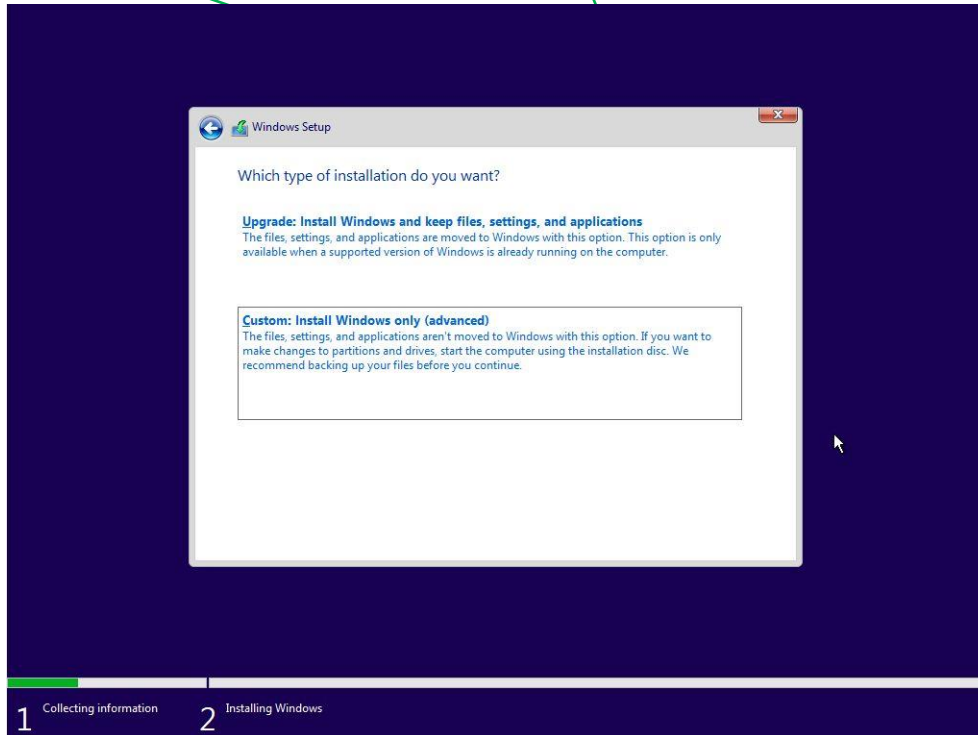
STEP 8:

Select the Windows edition you want to install. It must match the product key entered earlier or else Windows won't activate. If you're interested in Windows 10 editions and differences, we have an article [detailing them](#).



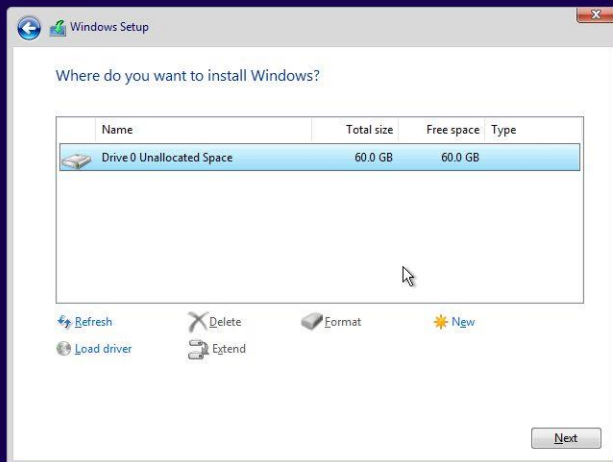
STEP 9:

To proceed you need to **agree to licensing terms (EULA)**.



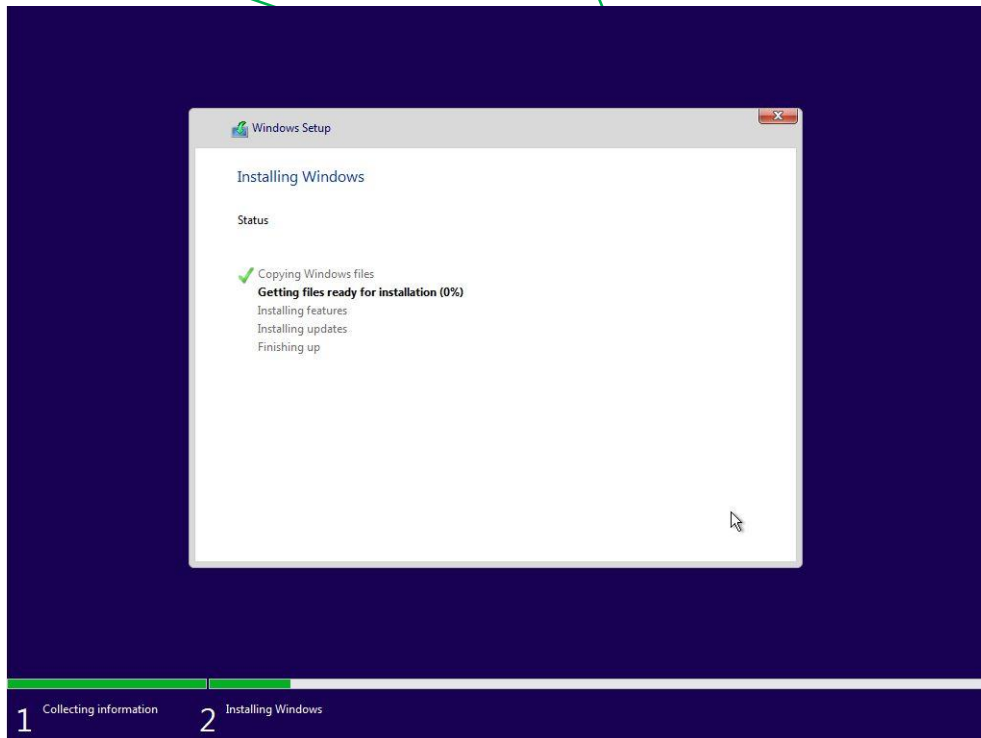
STEP 10:

Select the installation type: Upgrade an existing installation of Windows (version 7, 8, or 10) or **Custom**. Since it's a new computer we'll be choosing the latter option.



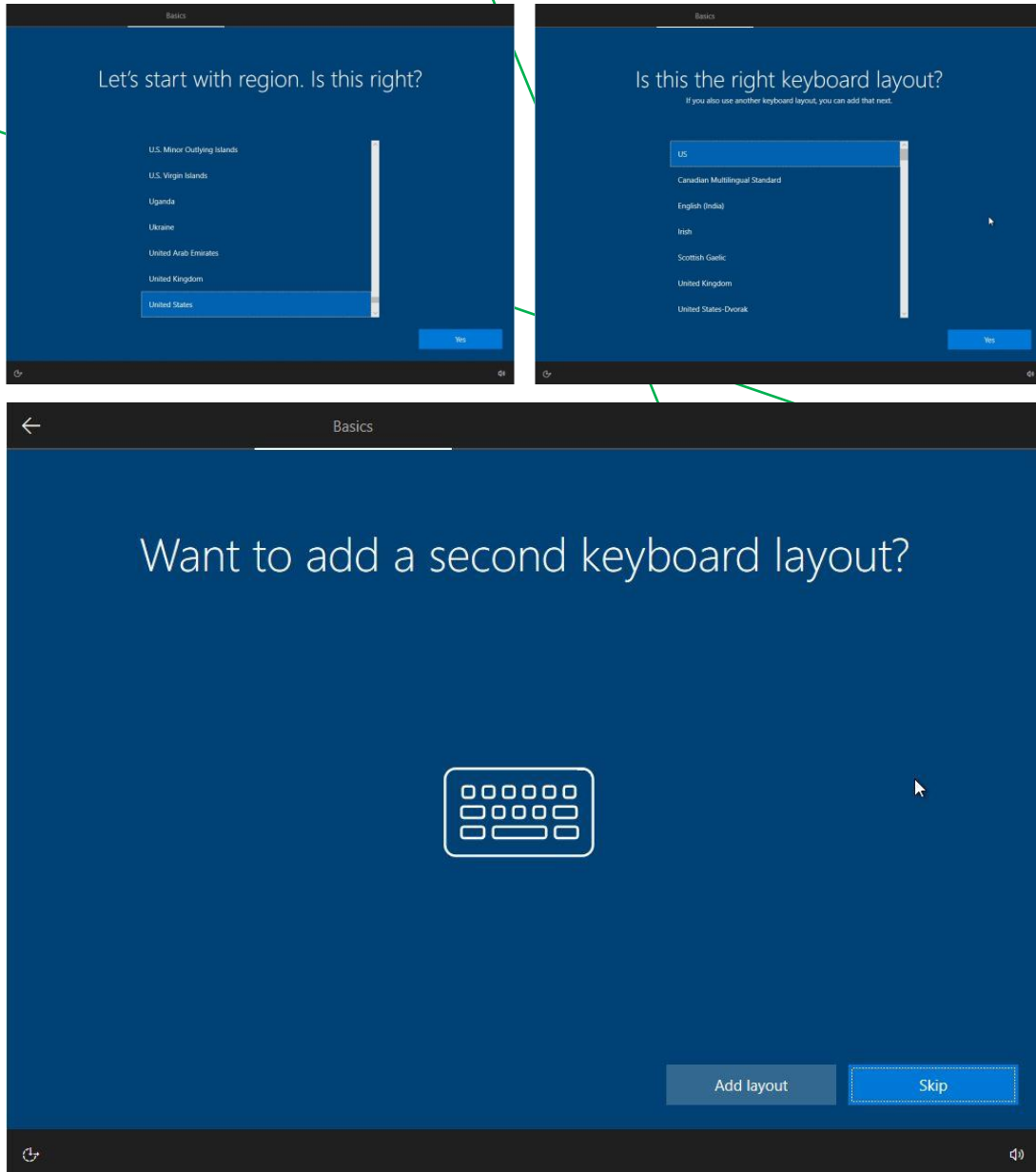
STEP 11:

Now it's time to let the installer know the **disk where Windows files will be copied**. At this step, you can partition the existing disk into smaller virtual disks (recommended for bigger disks). If you only have one unformatted disk just select it and hit Next. The installer will create all needed partitions.



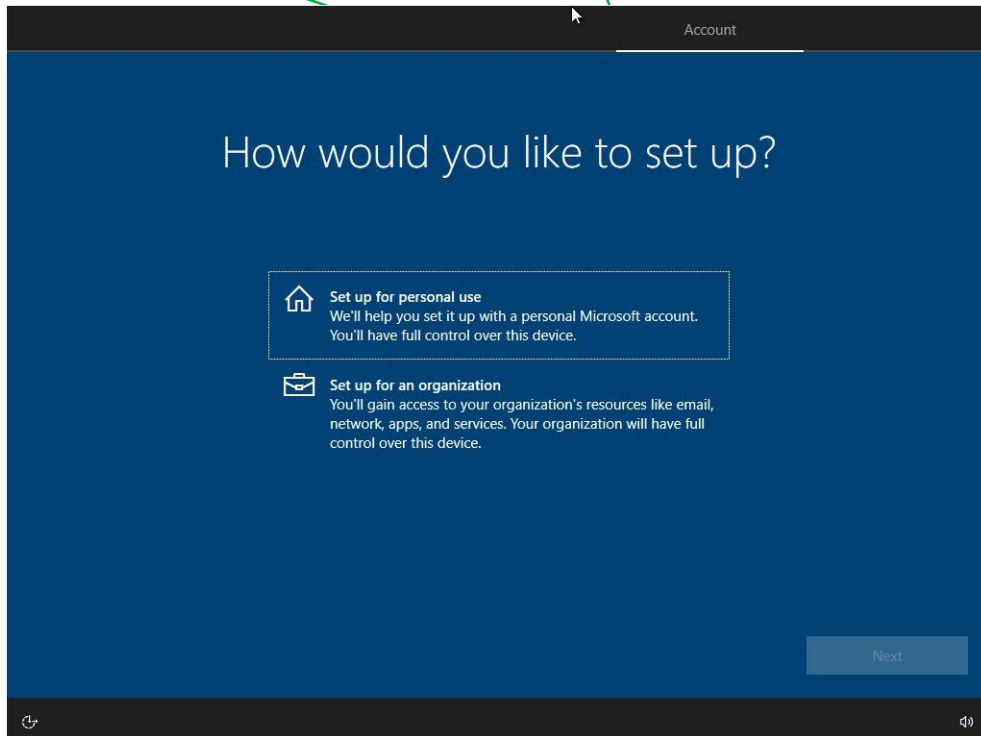
STEP 12:

The setup will now start to **copy files** from the install disk to their destination.



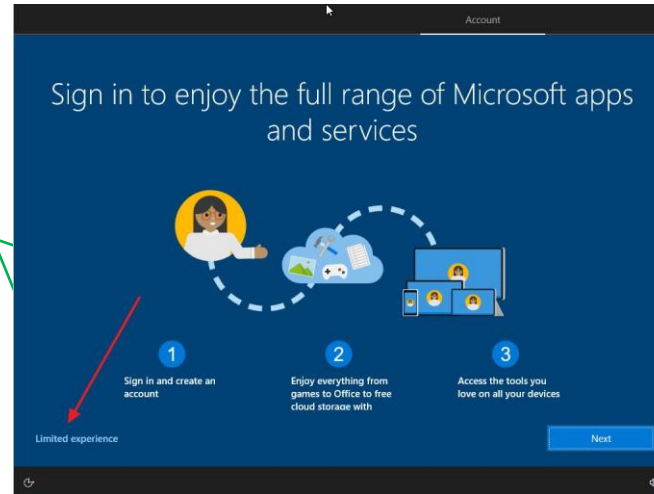
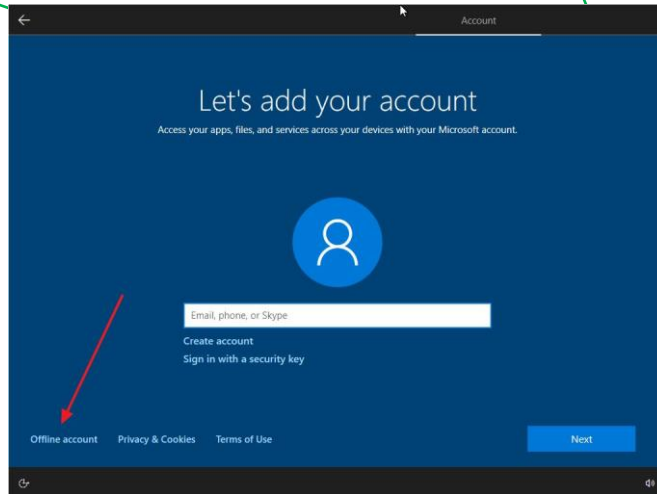
STEP 13:

At this step you'll be asked to **select the geographical region, and keyboard layout** again. They can differ and will override the settings from step 6. Optionally, you can **add more keyboard layouts** (use WIN + Shift to switch between them while using Windows).

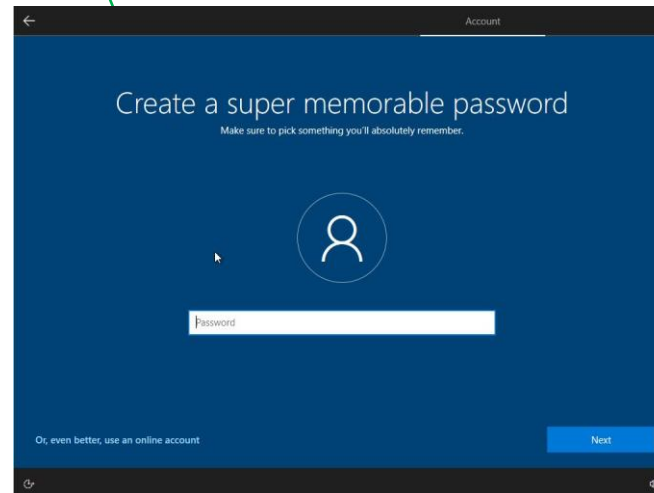
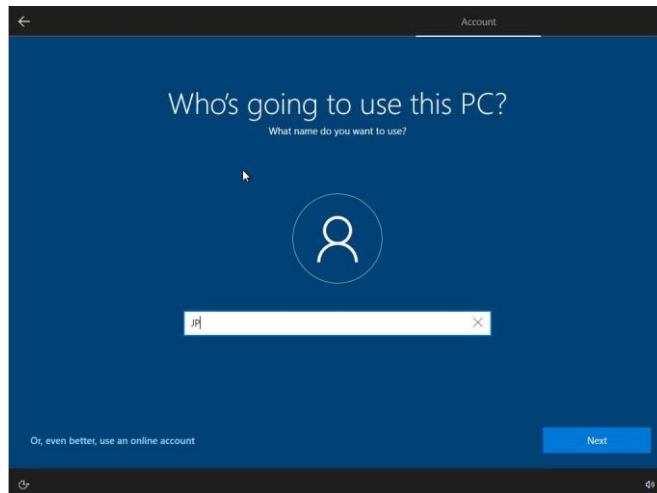


STEP 14:

Now it's time to select the type of predefined set-up: for **Personal use** or **Organization**, in which case a system administrator will enforce some settings for you. We'll be using Personal for our guide.

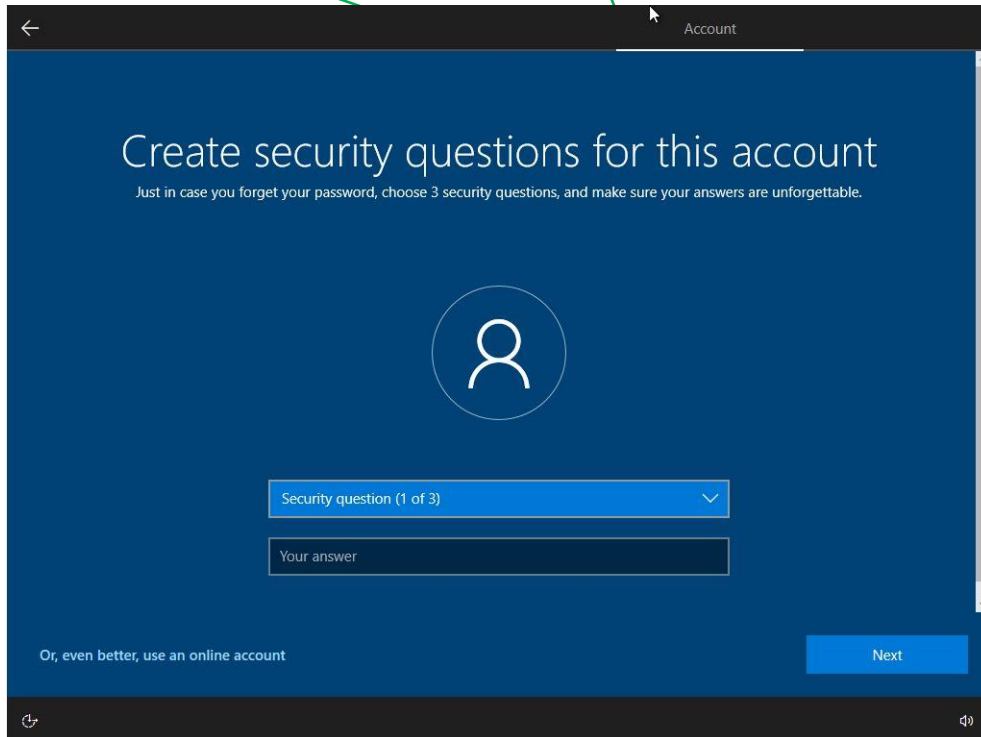


STEP 15:



Now we'll **create the first user account** which will also act as the administrator for this computer. Microsoft will push you towards using a Microsoft online account, but you can also set up an offline account. For privacy reasons, I suggest you set up the latter.

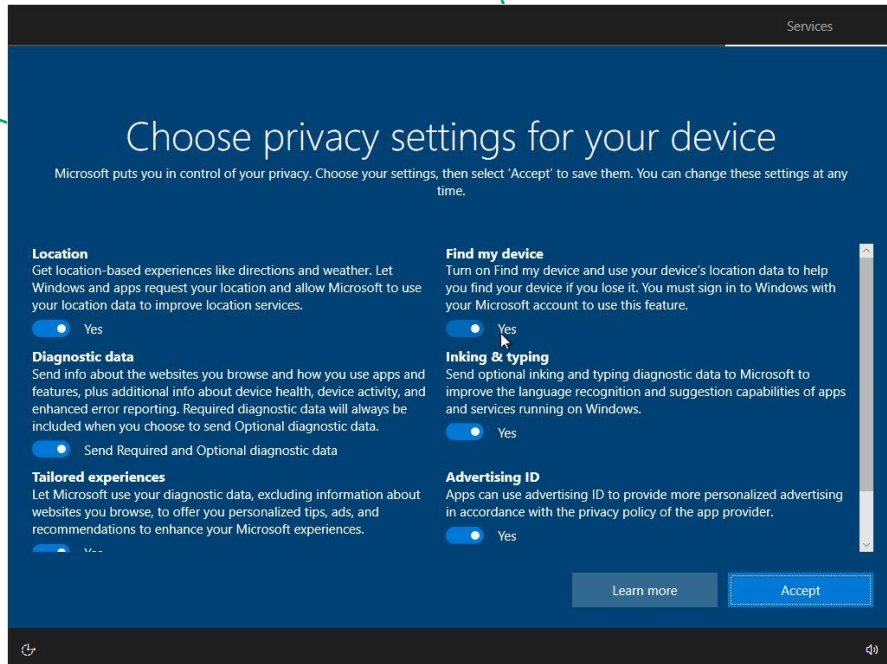
You can [read about the difference here](#).



The screenshot shows a Windows 10 account setup screen with a dark blue background. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a back arrow on the left and the word 'Account' on the right. The main heading is 'Create security questions for this account' in white, with a subtitle below it: 'Just in case you forget your password, choose 3 security questions, and make sure your answers are unforgettable.' In the center, there is a white circular icon representing a person. Below the icon, there is a dropdown menu labeled 'Security question (1 of 3)' and a text input field labeled 'Your answer'. At the bottom left, there is a link that says 'Or, even better, use an online account'. At the bottom right, there is a blue button labeled 'Next'. The entire screen is framed by a dark grey border.

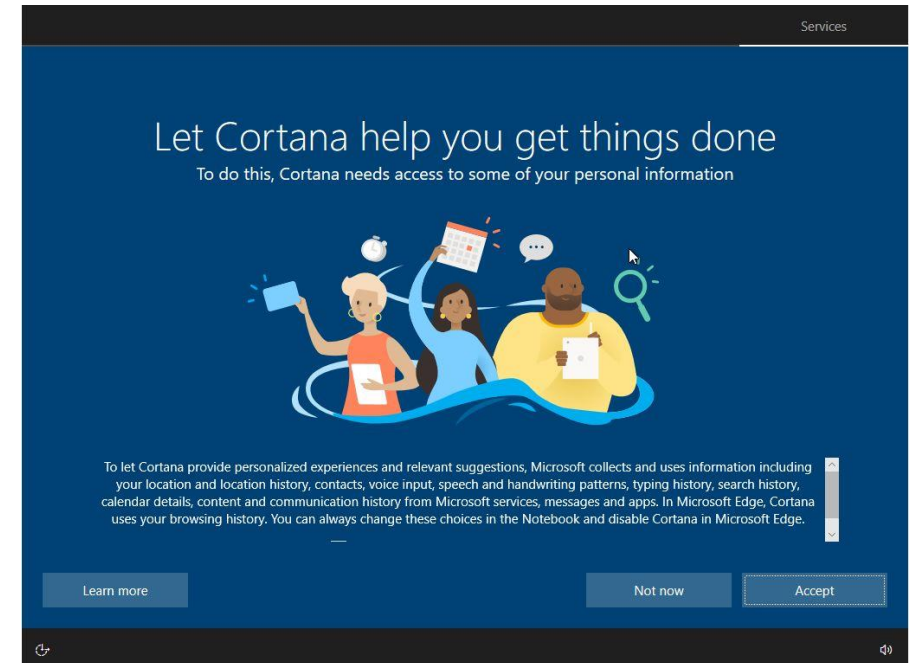
STEP 16:

I didn't remember this step, but it seems you now must select **3 security questions** that will help you recover your account in case you forget the password.



STEP 17:

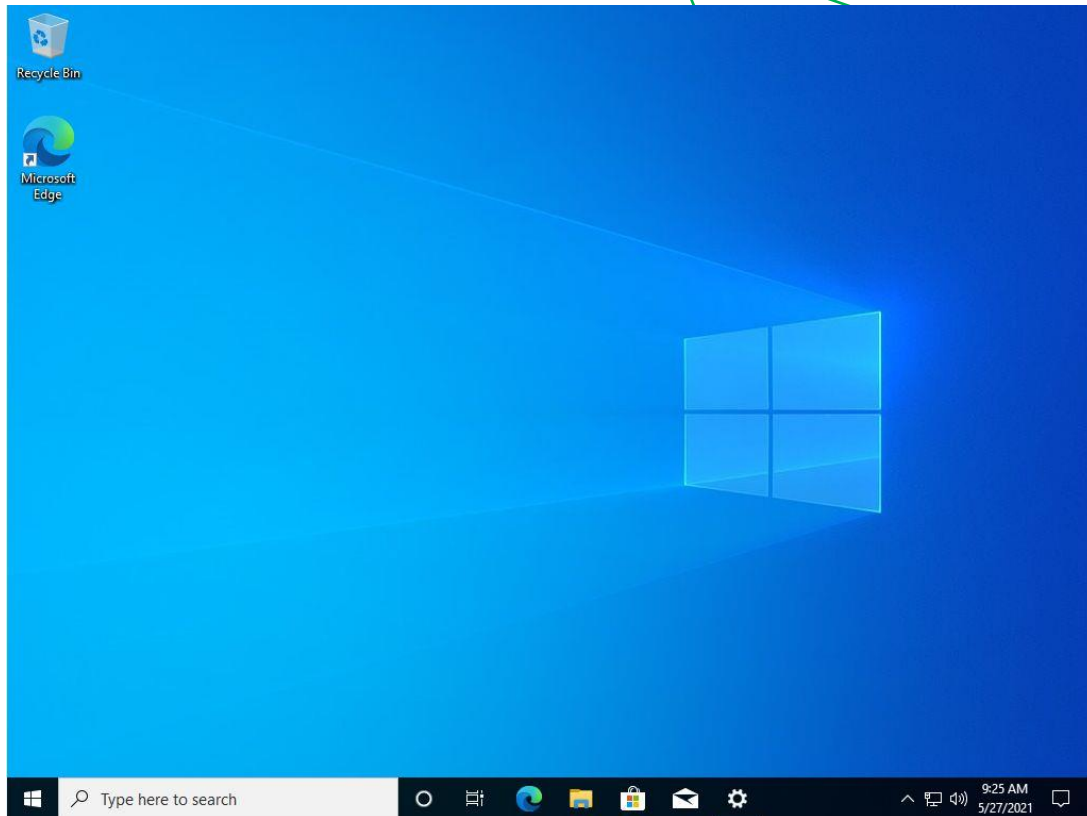
Privacy settings and **Cortana** are next. I personally disable everything that's possible at this step. Some telemetry data will still be sent to Microsoft servers, but I'm planning an article on how you can disable almost everything that's affecting privacy in Windows 10, so stay tuned.



We're getting everything ready for you

This might take several minutes

Don't turn off your PC



STEP 18:

After a few moments and a couple of different screens you'll be greeted with the familiar Windows 10 desktop for the first time.

That's it. You've successfully installed Windows 10 on your new computer!

THANK YOU

Don't forget to visit BinaryFork.com for more software how to guides like this one.

[Subscribe](#) to our FREE newsletter to get the latest posts directly in your INBOX.

Interested in computer tips everyone can use to do things faster? Join [PC is Dead, Again](#)