

STARTERGUIDE



Thank you!

Thank you for your purchase! We want to make your experience a satisfying one, so we've put together tips to help you get started with your Gateway computer.



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we do Windows

After you start your computer and complete the Windows® setup, the first thing you'll see on your screen is the Windows desktop. The desktop includes a taskbar, Start button (Ⓜ), and Recycle Bin icon. Other icons may be added depending on your computer's configuration.

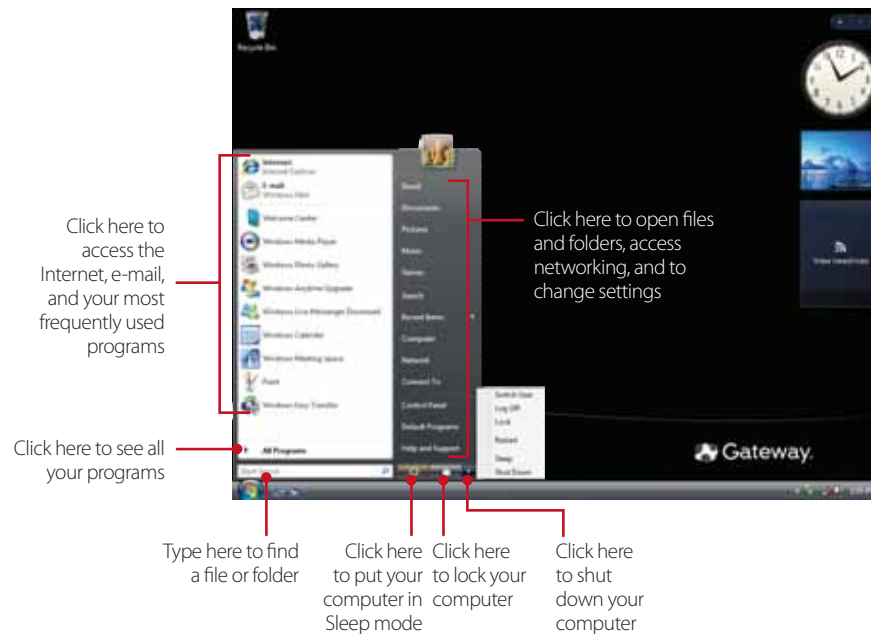


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For more information about Windows, see "Windows Basics" under Help and Support in the Start menu.

getting things started

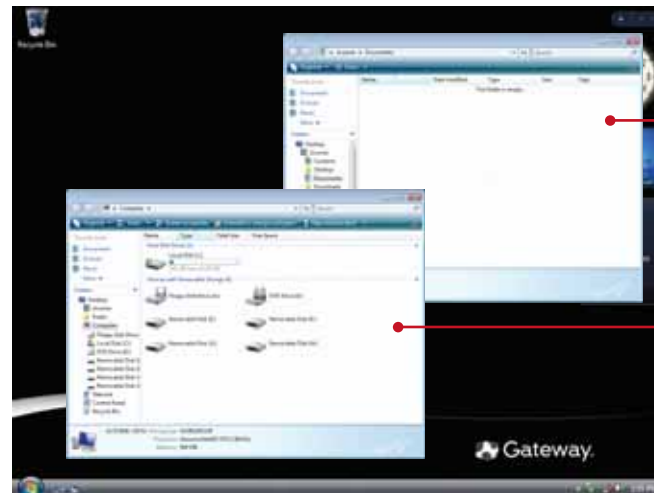
The Start menu is the *command center* of your computer. Whether you want to start a program, find a file, change settings, or even shut down your system, the Start menu is where it all begins.



For more information about Windows, see “Windows Basics” under Help and Support.

maintaining order

Managing files and folders starts with the **Computer** folder. From there, you can see everything on your computer. To get there, click **® (Start)**, then click **Computer**. To save something right away, use the **Documents** folder that has already been set up for you. To access that folder, click **® (Start)**, then click **Documents**.



Documents

Already created for you, this folder is ready for immediate use

Computer

Look here to see what's on your computer

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For more information about Windows, see "Windows basics" under Help and Support.

welcome to the Welcome Center!

The Welcome Center offers a wealth of options for getting more information about your computer, as well as links to special deals from Gateway partners! To access the Welcome Center, click **® (Start)**, **Control Panel**, then click **System and Maintenance**. Click **Welcome Center** and select an option.



need additional help?

If you need a little extra help with something on your computer, Gateway offers several options designed to meet your needs:

- **Gateway Web support**—Available 24/7, Gateway's online support provides current drivers, product specifications, tutorials, and personalized information about your computer. Visit us at www.support.gateway.com.
- **Help and Support**—This collection of Windows help and troubleshooting information, along with automated support, is easily accessible. Just click **Ⓜ (Start)**, then click **Help and Support**. Click a link, do a search, or simply browse to find what you're looking for.



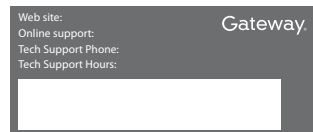
Gateway's Web support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



Help and Support is a quick and easy way to get information

help, continued...

- **User guide**—For clear, yet comprehensive, information on everything from basic definitions to more complex tasks, see the User Guide installed on your computer. To open, click Ⓜ (Start), **All Programs**, then click **Gateway Documentation**.
- **Tech support**—For help and advice you can trust, talk to people who know computers. You can find the number on the label that's on your desktop or notebook computer.



Find contact information and your computer's serial number on this label



Check your User Guide for easy-to-understand information on a variety of topics

- **BigFix**—Pre-installed for you on your Gateway computer, BigFix checks your computer for problems and conflicts and lets you know if it finds something. To start BigFix, click Ⓜ (Start), **All Programs**, **Accessories**, **System Tools**, then click **BigFix**. Click **Help**, then click **Tutorial** to learn more about it.

surfing the 'net

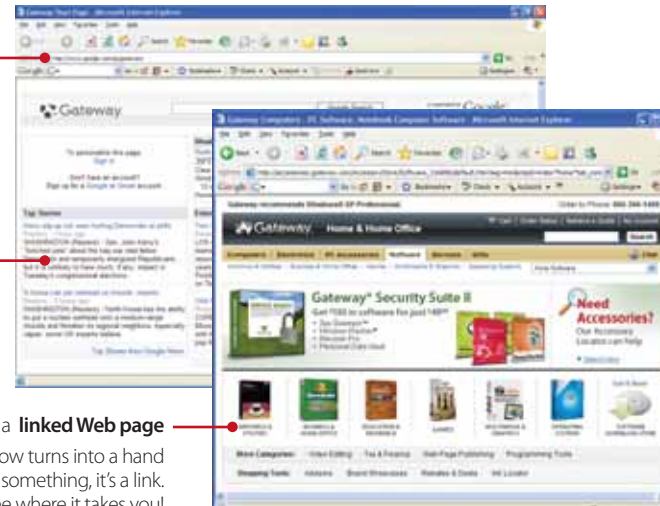
Explore the World Wide Web with an Internet connection. Just connect your computer to a telephone line, Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), or cable TV line and sign up with an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

To get to the Internet, click **@ (Start)**, then click **Internet** or the ISP you've connected with. Type in an Internet address, such as www.gateway.com, click **Go**, and you're on your way.

The **address bar** is where you type in the Internet address or URL (Universal Resource Locator)

This is a **Web page**

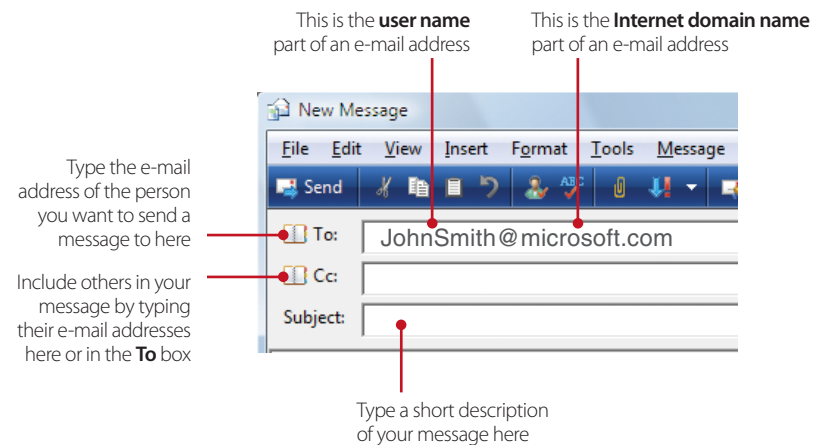
This is a **linked Web page**
If your pointer arrow turns into a hand when you move over something, it's a link. Click on it and see where it takes you!



welcome to e-mail!

Staying in touch with family and friends is easy with e-mail and is usually free with your Internet account.

To send e-mail, connect to your ISP, click **@ (Start)**, then click **E-mail**. When your default e-mail program opens, complete any setup required, then click **Create Mail** and type the e-mail address of the person that you want to send a message to in the **To** box. Add a description in the **Subject** box, type the e-mail message, then click **Send**. Your message will arrive at most e-mail addresses in seconds.



For more information about e-mail, see "Using the Internet" in your online user guide.

for your listening and viewing pleasure...

Enjoy listening to favorite music CDs or watching DVDs with software already installed on your new Gateway computer.

To listen to a music CD or watch a movie on DVD, click **® (Start)**, **All Programs**, then click **Windows Media Player**. Put the disk into the CD or DVD drive on your computer, then click the **Play** button (▶). You can control how the music CD or video DVD plays from Windows Media Player.

Note: You must have a DVD disc drive to play a DVD



Songs or scene selections from the disc you are playing are listed here

Click these buttons to play, pause, or stop disc playback. You can also control the volume here.

rip, burn, play

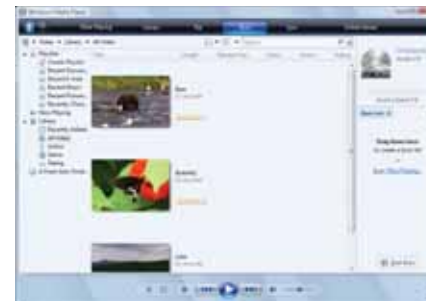
Create a custom music CD with MP3s you *rip* yourself, or create a video DVD of home movies or special videos. If your computer came with a DVD burner, you can do it all with easy-to-use software already installed on your Gateway computer.

Create an MP3 music file

To create an MP3, click Ⓜ (Start), **All Programs**, then click **Windows Media Player**. Put a music CD in the disc drive on your computer, then click **Rip**. Make sure that the songs you want to create MP3s of are checked, then click **Start Rip**. Windows Media Player will create MP3s and save them to the Music folder.

Create a DVD

To save content such as data or movies to DVD, open Windows Media Player and put a blank, writable DVD into the DVD burner on your computer. Click **Burn**, select the video, then click **Add to Burn List**. When you've selected all the files you want to save, click **Start Burn**.

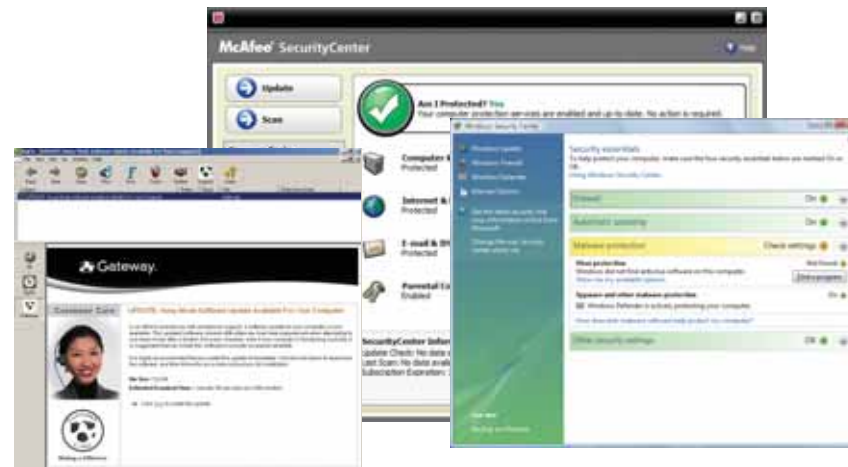


Note: you must have a DVD burner to create a DVD

keeping your computer safe

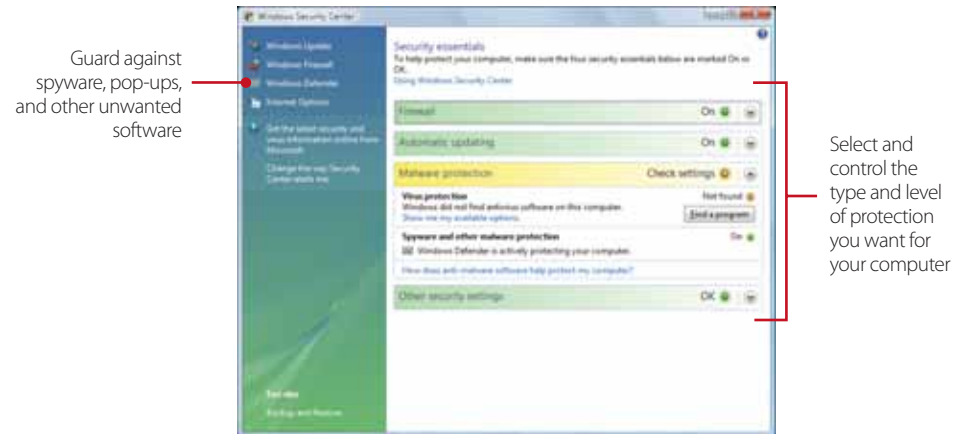
Your Gateway computer comes with hardware and software features that can help you keep your computer secure and up-to-date. Use these tools regularly to improve the security of personal information stored on your computer:

- **Windows Security**—Provides access to security features such as Windows Security Center, Windows Firewall, Windows Update, and Windows Defender—all built into Windows Vista
- **McAfee SecurityCenter**—Reduces the chances of a virus affecting your computer
- **BigFix**—Monitors your computer for problems, and alerts you if something is detected



securing the perimeter

Windows Vista provides built-in security features designed to protect you, your family, and your computers. To view or change Windows Vista security settings, click **Ⓜ (Start)**, **Control Panel**, **Security**, then click **Security Center**.



For more information on security, see “Protecting Your Computer” in your online user guide.

Windows Update

If a hacker finds a way to bypass the security features built into Windows Vista, Microsoft creates a high-priority Windows update to fix the problem. You should update Windows regularly to keep your computer secure.

To run Windows Update, click **® (Start)**, **All Programs**, then click **Windows Update**. Click **Express** to download high-priority updates, including those that are security related.

You can
schedule
automatic
updates with
Windows
Update



virus-free with McAfee

McAfee SecurityCenter

McAfee SecurityCenter helps protect your computer from viruses, hackers, and privacy threats. To run McAfee SecurityCenter, click  (Start), **All Programs, McAfee**, then click **McAfee SecurityCenter**.

Your computer came with McAfee VirusScan, Personal Firewall, and Spamkiller turned on. McAfee Privacy Service is turned off. To turn on that service and keep the other ones on as well, connect to the Internet and register McAfee SecurityCenter when prompted.

You need to extend your subscription to update McAfee SecurityCenter after the complimentary trial period ends.



For more information on security, see “Protecting Your Computer” in your user guide.

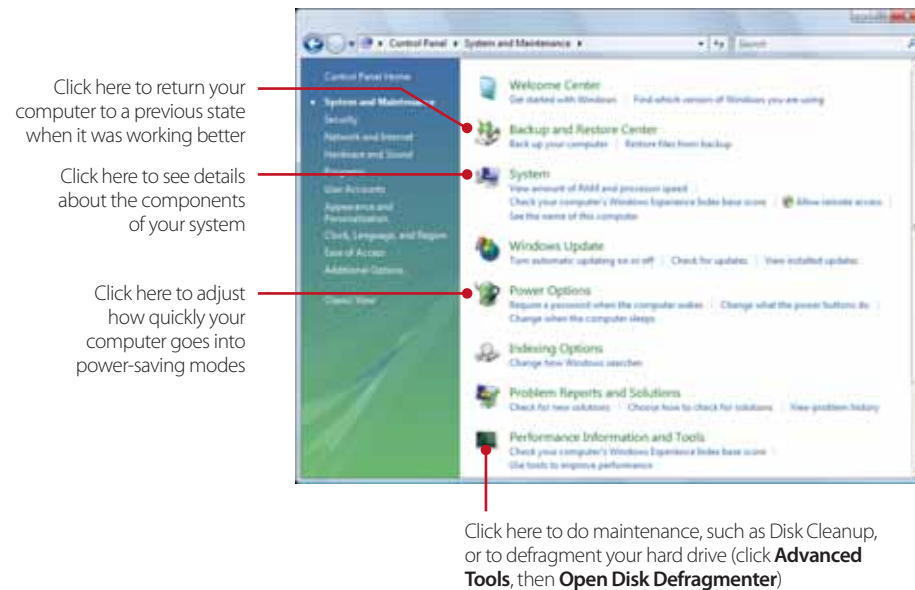
BigFix

Your computer may include BigFix. BigFix monitors your computer for problems and conflicts. It automatically gathers information about the latest bugs, security alerts, and updates from BigFix sites on the Internet. Whenever BigFix detects a problem, it alerts you by flashing the blue taskbar icon (■). To fix the problem, click that icon and BigFix will open.



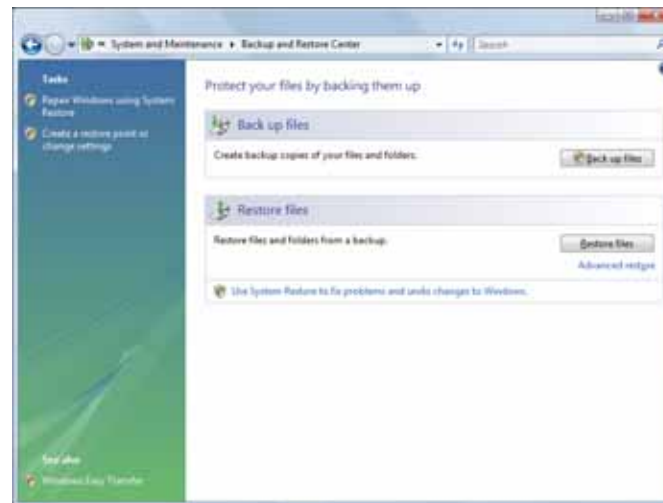
improving performance

Keep your computer in top running condition with regular maintenance. Click **@(Start)**, **Control Panel**, then click **System and Maintenance**. Select an option and follow the instructions. Do this regularly and you'll have a smoother running system.



backing up a bit – restoring your computer

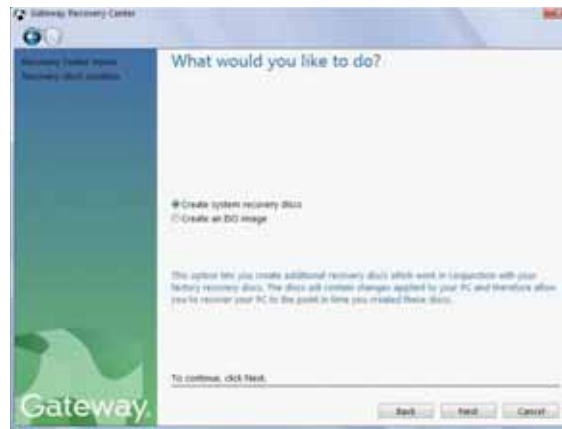
In the unlikely event that you experience software problems, the Windows Vista Backup and Restore Center lets you roll back your computer to a previous state when everything worked right. Vista takes regular snapshots of your system, called *Restore Points*. You can return to one of these Restore Points to get your computer running again. To take advantage of the restore features in Windows, click **Ⓜ (Start)**, **Control Panel**, **System and Maintenance**, then click **Backup and Restore Center**.



prepare to recover

When you first get your computer, it is a good idea to make a backup of the software that came with your system. Before you create this "recovery disc," make sure that your computer has a recordable drive and that you have blank discs ready. Depending on the type of recordable drive you use, you'll need either several CD-R discs or one DVD-R or DVD+R disc. CD-RW, DVD-RW, and DVD+RW discs will not work.

To create the disc, click **(Start)**, **Gateway Recovery Center**, then click **Factory Recovery External Media** and follow the on-screen instructions. When prompted, choose either **Create System Recovery Discs** (makes a backup of applications and drivers) or **Create ISO image** (creates complete system backup). Make your selection, then continue with the on-screen instructions.



reinstalling the operating system

A backup copy of your hard drive's original factory-installed contents is saved on a hidden area of your hard drive. This lets you restore your computer to its original factory settings.

- 1 Turn on or restart your computer, then press the **F8** key on your keyboard repeatedly while your computer is starting. When the Advanced Boot Options screen appears, click **Repair Your Computer**.
- 2 Pick your keyboard country, then click **Next**. Log on as an Administrator, then click **OK**.
- 3 On the *System Recovery Options* screen, click **Restore Application** (last option). The System Recovery wizard opens.
- 4 Follow the on-screen instructions.
- 5 Click one of the following system recovery options when prompted
 - **Recovery with Automatic Data Backup** (recommended)—This moves the contents of the hard drive to the C:\My Backup folder and installs a new copy of Windows. This option saves your existing data files, but all programs must be re-installed and the program settings reconfigured. You need at least 4 GB of hard drive space to use this restore option
 - **Full Factory Recovery**—Reformats and restores the system software as it was when you purchased your computer. This process deletes your data files, so they must be saved on an external disc prior to reformatting.

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- 6 Click **Next**, then click **Yes**. Recovery starts.
 - 7 When recovery is complete, click **Finish**. Your computer will restart and Windows will finish its setup and installation.

IMPORTANT

- If your hard drive has failed and you can't restore the software from the hard drive, contact Gateway Customer Care for help.
- After you restore your computer, it will appear with the same files and programs it had when it shipped from the factory. You still need to download Windows updates and antivirus updates to bring your computer's software up to date.



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