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How to determine whether you are running 32-bit or 64-bit Windows

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This article provides information to determine whether you are running a 32-bit or 64-bit release of Windows under the following releases of Windows:

- Windows 8
- Windows 7
- Windows Vista

To determine whether you are using a 32-bit or 64-bit release of Windows, please follow these steps:

1. Click on the Windows Desktop.

Under Windows 8, please note that the Desktop is reachable by launching the Desktop application in the Start Menu. Once you've launched the Desktop application, it should be possible to click on the Desktop.

2. At the Windows Desktop, create a new Window. You can do this by holding the control (ctrl) key and pressing N.
3. At the top of the new window, clear the address that appears that appears in the address bar.

Once text has been cleared from the address bar, type the word "Computer" into the address bar; then, press enter/ return on your keyboard.

4. Somewhere within the Computer window, right-click on the empty space in the main area of the window; then, select Properties from the contextual menu that appears.

After following these steps, Windows should display a Control Panel pane that display basic information about your computer.

Within the System Properties window, the System Type field should appear under the System section. System should display one of the following values:

- 32-bit Operating System
- 64-bit Operating System